AC The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

FREE

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Educators' legacy lives on with $2.2 million gift to Fennville Public Schools

A generous planned gift from the estate of longtime educators James and Grace Walz will benefit Fennville Public Schools' students and educators for generations to come. James and Grace dedicated decades to Fennville Public Schools. Grace taught U.S. History, World History, Michigan History, and Government for 28 years, while James served as the high school librarian for 23 years, both retiring in 1986. Their lifelong commitment to education and service will live on through funds established with the Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF).

James and Grace Walz gave a planned gift of $2.2 million to Fennville Public Schools to address the needs of students and educators across the generations. Photo courtesy of ACCF

Grace brought history to life through hands-on learning, organizing activities such as tombstone tracings in local cemeteries and immersive Thanksgiving history lessons. She was an incessant, voracious reader, and her love of learning shaped countless students and inspired future educators. A former student recalled visiting Mrs. Walz after college, "She was my world history teacher, the most knowledgeable person I have ever known. She knew everything. I wondered how she could be so bright. When I walked into her house, I finally figured it out. Every single wall was a bookshelf from floor to ceiling, even in the bathroom. Mrs. Walz has shaped my teaching philosophy not only in world history, but in economics and world religions. Thank you, Mrs. Walz."

James taught many students about problem-solving, professionalism, and how to serve the public with courtesy and respect. Upon his retirement, a community member shared "For twelve years I have had nothing but praise for the library you have kept. We are all proud of it and grateful to you." He was always ready to help students and teachers find the resources they needed to learn, imagine, and create.

Though James and Grace had no children of their own, their dream had always been to help students from Fennville Public Schools follow their educational and personal goals, continuing the tradition of quiet generosity that has already supported so many. With guidance from their longtime and trusted financial advisor, Joe Johnson of Delong & Brower, Grace worked with the Allegan County Community Foundation to structure a planned gift to continue that legacy, supporting students, teachers, and learning initiatives in Fennville.

The funds will provide flexible support for Fennville Public Schools. This includes resources to support Fennville High School graduating seniors in pursuing college or skilled trades, as well as resources for teachers to develop creative classroom projects and purchase learning materials. Designed to last indefinitely, the funds will ensure their generosity continues to empower students and inspire educators in the community for generations.

"We are deeply honored to steward the legacy of James and Grace Walz." said Stephanie Calhoun, President/CEO of the Allegan County Community Foundation. "Their gift is an extraordinary example of how thoughtful and deliberate planning can make a lasting impact in a community."

Beyond its own impact, the gift reflects Grace's hope that students who benefit will be inspired to give back to Fennville Public Schools, continuing a cycle of learning and generosity for generations.

Rossman Park neighborhood, some downtown areas on tap for 2026 improvements

By Gari Voss

As of mid-December 2026, about 90% of the engineering plans for the 2026 Phase of the Allegan Street Project are complete, but by listening to residents and their questions, the Abonmarche engineers and Allegan City Hall can make adjustments. The timeline for the projects, including which streets will be affected when, and details regarding how residents and customers can access their homes and businesses will not be available until a contractor is selected. In the meanwhile, those interested can stop at City Hall and make an appointment to discuss the improvement plans with staff.

To facilitate the conversation, Abonmarche engineers and Allegan City staff shared introductory information about the project.

■ see **Park**, Page A10

Oakwood Cemetery remembers veterans during Wreaths Across America

By Gari Voss

The temperature was below nippy, but the crowd that gathered reached about 100. Some came in uniform, others had worn uniforms, and most had been associated with someone who had served. Wreaths Across America was observed for the first time at Oakwood Cemetery with the message: **Remember** the fallen; **Honor** those who serve; and **Teach** the next generation the value of freedom.

Hundreds around Allegan had donated money to sponsor wreaths. The goal was to have 1000 wreaths, so every veteran residing in Oakwood Cemetery would have a special marker in thanks to his or her participation in one of America's Armed Forces. 900 wreaths were donated.

The ceremony began with hanging a wreath for each branch of the military plus a final one for POWs. Emcee Wally Coots reminded those gathered that, yes, it was cold, but those who fought battles for freedom often endured far worse.

The Oakwood Cemetery has soldiers who fought in

■ see **Wreaths**, Page A10

As emcee Wally Coots announced each branch of the Armed Forces, a wreath was placed by a veteran. Ray Lewis, who had served in the Navy, placed the final wreath for POWs. About 100 participants braved the freezing temperatures to clear graves, lay wreaths, and take a moment to thank the person for their service to keep America and other countries free. Photo: G. Voss

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BRONSON

The Allegan Brass Collective presents Christmas at the Griswold

By Gari Voss

The Allegan Brass Collective returns to Allegan's Griswold Auditorium for a free, fabulous holiday spectacular on Saturday, December 20, 2025, beginning at 6pm. Christmas at the Griswold has become an Allegan favorite thanks to the sponsorship of the Friends of the Allegan District Library. The music is uplifting as it gets the audience in the mood for Christmas. The stories and anecdotes range from touching to hilarious. The doors open at 5:30pm, so don't be late!

Featured this year will be artist Davin Youngs. Youngs is a singer, sound healing artist, keynote speaker, and coach based in Chicago and is the creator of RESET that is described as an immersive sound healing experience that has captivated audiences at venues like The Kennedy Center, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, and Nashville's Schermerhorn Symphony Center. He can be found as host of the *Free Your Voice, Free Your Life* podcast.

Artist Davin Youngs, a soul healing vocalist from Chicago, will join the Allegan Brass Collective and the Allegan Community Players for Christmas at the Griswold on Dec. 20, 2025, at 6pm. Admission is FREE, and doors open at 5:30pm.

Included in this year's Christmas spectacular will be a Sing-Along with the Allegan Community Players. Their audience interactions will keep the hall humming.

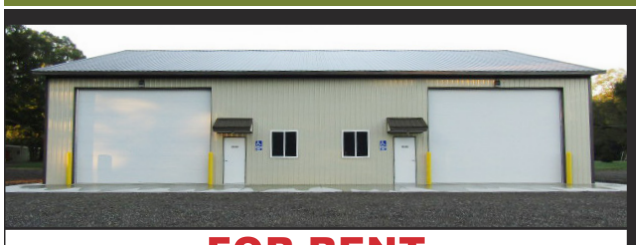
During intermission, there will be free punch and cookies.

The Allegan Brass Collective is collaborating with the Allegan Community Players to fill the Griswold Auditorium with wonderful holiday music, witty stories, and sing-along opportunities on Saturday, December 20, 2025, beginning at 6pm. Featured this year will be artist Davin Youngs and the ACP Sing-Along. Pictured: Mark Chapman-Trumpet, Jackie Meyer-French Horn, Jessica Williams-Trumpet. Chad Steffes-Tuba, Dan White-Trombone, and Rachel Roe-Trumpet. Photo courtesy of the Allegan Brass Collective

The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise

Service Directory Guide

Find the Services and Businesses You Need!



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Art Hop takes center stage during Festive Friday

By Gari Voss

The City of Allegan's Festive Friday, December 12, 2025, from 5-8pm featured artists and artisans from around West Michigan. The Allegan Area Arts Council created a wonderful menu of medium. Visitors planned their loop around town to explore all of the artists and hosting businesses.

The evening was crisp, but with the assistance of the Holly Jolly Trolley, free hot chocolate, live music, and accommodating local businesses, visitors were able to keep warm and enjoy lively conversations.

During Art Hop Festive Friday, the line of families wound around the Allegan district Library in hope of spending time with Santa.

Allegan's Art Hop visitors could learn about the art of growing herbs and the art of cooking. Visitors to A-Tech learned from Katy Kindermann about her herbs, salt & seasoning.

Often when "art" is mentioned, the vision is of art on canvas using acrylics, watercolors, ink, or pencil. But Allegan's Art Hop offered new dimensions in art like Laura Bucks' and Lacey Schmitt's succulents and more, Katy Kindermann's herbs, Tommy Sumner's freeze dried items along with oils and honey, and Lydia Bouman's tallow creams. The natural "ingredients" gave art lovers a new way to appreciate nature-inspired art. Nature was also highlighted in Sandy Clark's centerpieces and Debbie and Peter Thompson's Michigan leaf art.

Alexa Birkam and Essenburg Arts displayed a wide variety of ceramics complete with wonderful detail. Soft Art was represented by upcycled sweater mittens by Celeste Westrate, Karen Rambadt's felt & paper, Sharon Jager's, Sheri Peyerk's and Barb Null's cloth creations, Ranae Baumgart's use of paper, Jill Scripps' lavender moon garden items, and Amy & Aliza Meyer's crochet & more pieces. On the more delicate side was the hand blown glass by Michael Fortin & Judith Konesni, while on the more solid side were Mike LaJoice's copper artwork, Trudy Fabijancic's seasonal wooden decorations, and Paul Smith's art from "found objects".

A visit to Tardy's Underground found Izaak Schans, known for Comic Art & Paintings and Ink Drawings, creating portraits of visitors during Allegan's Art Hop, Dec. 12, 2025.

Even with the variety of artisans, the vibrant colors and artistic techniques employed with a brush and canvas elicited many conversations. Paintings offered by Brandy VanOrder, Lori Lapekes, Pat Miner, Carmen Moore, Sandy Troutman, Mary Clare Johnson, and Paulette Carr could enhance the walls of homes or offices. Those same techniques were displayed by Julie Fender on her tumblers and Brandy VanOrder on her suncatchers and jewelry. At the same time, Xavi Corcoran intrigued customers with fantasy & abstract paintings, and Izaak Schams sketched customers while displaying comic art and ink drawings.

Along with the many artists and artisans, the Allegan District Library hosted Santa, who interacted with hundreds of children, and his reindeer, while furnishing some hot chocolate and goodies. City Hall also offered hot chocolate and a chat with city council members.

Extra time was allowed to stop at Justina's School of Dance to enjoy the performances, and a visit to the First Presbyterian Church for their Holiday Market that provided plenty of music, treasures, and a warm meal.

During the exploration of the many art and artisan venues, visitors learned that Davis Diamond Designs on Locust St. had officially opened their doors for a soft opening and weekend hours. Also, Essenburg Arts Studio in Shoppes at Brady is offering ceramics workshops. Add to that opportunities for workshops at Eccentric Gardens, Cottage Arts & Eats, Sharon's Quilts & More, The Bear & Fox Yarn Den, and Allegan Floral. Avid readers were invited to check out Janelle Arens' young adult books.

A special thank you can be given to the music artists. Mike & Becky Villar brought their sounds to Tantrick Brewing, Dean Michales and Greg Howard filled the Bear & Fox Yarn Den and all of Brady Street, while Dan Smith entertained those in the halls outside Allegan Floral, and Sheila & the Iron Bridge Strings filled Country House Furniture. Plus, art in movement was demonstrated by the students at Justina's School of Dance.

Art Hop ignites a light on the many types of art in the world. The flame can continue throughout the year, and these artists can be contacted, and their creations can be purchased for personal use or to give as gifts.

Tantrick Brewing expanded their offerings beyond home brew on Dec. 12, 2025, to beautiful hand blown glass items by Michael Fortin & Judith Konesni plus music by Mike & Becky Villar of Whiskey & Wine.

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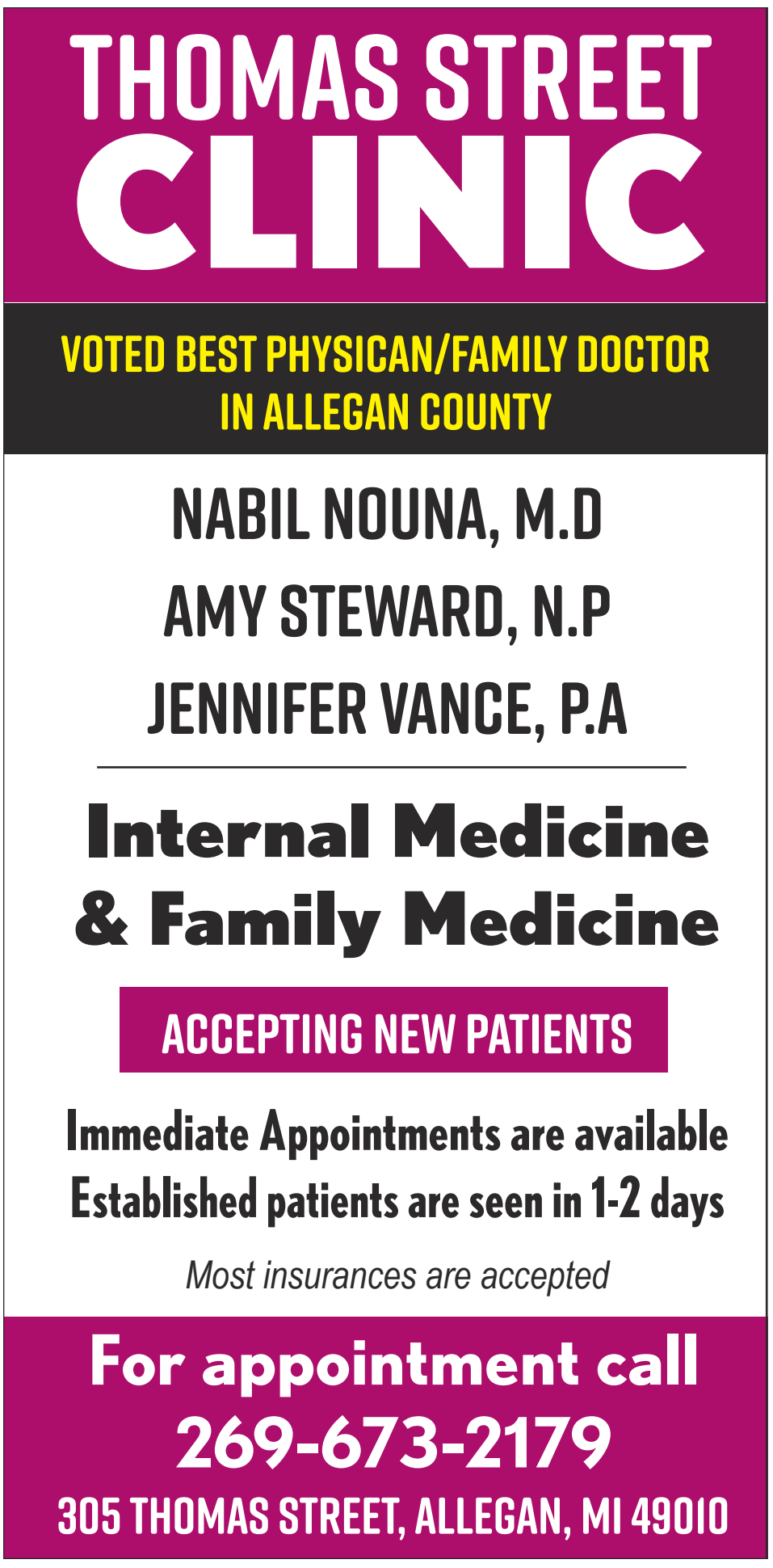

COMMUNITY EVENTS

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

Old Jail Museum – Holiday Hours: Fri., Dec. 26 & Sat., Dec. 27' 2025, 10am-4pm.

Mon. – Sat. 5-9pm: Warming Station - Good Shepherd 101 N. Walnut, Allegan

Until Jan. 4, 2026, 5:30-11pm: Veenstra Christmas Lights. 2187 132nd Ave. Hopkins.

Wed., Dec. 17, 2025, 5:30-8pm: Pub Quiz Night. Tantrick Brewing Co.

Fri., Dec. 19, 2025, 5-10pm: Festive Friday – Home for the Holidays. Downtown Allegan

Fri., Dec. 19, 2025, 5-8pm: Santa at City Hall & Council Member Coffee Council. City Hall

Sat., Dec. 20, 2025, 6pm: Christmas at the Griswold. Griswold Auditorium

Sun., Dec. 21, 2025, 7am-5:30pm: 9th Annual Winter Solstice 99 – Home Team Disc Golf. Jaycee Park 200 Monroe St.

CURRENT EVENTS

Wed., Dec. 17, 2025, 5:30-8pm: Pub Quiz Night
Tantrick Brewing Co., Hubbard St., Allegan
Join a fun night of trivia with teams of 4-6.

Fri., Dec. 19, 2025, 5-10pm: Festive Friday – Home for the Holidays
Downtown Allegan will begin with a free movie at 4pm at the Regent Theater and open the businesses for special food and drinks. Do a restaurant hop and visit Santa at City Hall.

Fri., Dec. 19, 2025, 5-8pm: Council Member Coffee Council
City Hall Trowbridge St. Allegan
Come, have hot chocolate, and share ideas with city council members.

Sat., Dec. 20, 2025, 6pm: Christmas at the Griswold
Griswold Auditorium Hubbard St. Allegan
Join the Allegan Brass Collective and their special guests from the Allegan Community Players at this annual holiday event. There will be singing, skits, a free cookie and punch intermission, and lots and lots of brass holiday music. This is a free show sponsored by the Friends of the Allegan District Library. Doors open at 5:30pm. General admission seating.

Sun., Dec. 21, 2025, 7am-5:30pm: 9th Annual Winter Solstice 99 – Home Team Disc Golf
Jaycee Park 200 Monroe St. Allegan
On the shortest day of the year with an entry fee of a non-perishable food item, Hone Team Disc Golf welcomes all comers to play birdie or par only. Come and try your luck! For more information contact Home Team Disc Golf, 269-547-6349, https://hometeamdiscgolf.club/

Tues., Dec. 23, 2025, 1pm: Grief Support Lunch
Salvino's, 1290 M-89, Plainwell
Wings of Hope invites all to come and connect.

Fri., Dec. 26, 2025, 9:30pm: Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
The Regent Theater 211 Trowbridge St. Allegan
Celebrate Dick VanDyke's 100th birthday with a ride down Memory Lane.

Sun., Dec. 28, 2925, 8:30am-2:30pm: Red Cross Blood Drive
St. Margaret's Church 766 S. Farmer St. Otsego
Schedule at https://www.redcrossblood.org/ or drop in to donate blood, platelets, blood cells or more.

Wed., Dec. 31, 2025, 8pm-midnight: NYE! New Year's Eve Celebration
Downtown Allegan will host an outdoor event featuring massive fire pits, food trucks, hot drinks, live music, a silent disco, ice skating rink, and Michigan's Largest New Year's Eve Ball will drop at the stroke of midnight.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE

Adventist Community Service Center
218 S. Farmer St. Otsego Tues. 10am-4pm; Thurs. 1-5pm
Clothes for the family and household goods are available, layettes for newborns, clothing, diapers, toys, etc. for babies to 6 mo. For emergency needs, call 269 694-4775 or Marlene 269 217-8293. This is supported by the 7th-Day Adventist Church and an ACCF TAG Grant.

Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
23 Water Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.communityactionallegan.org, (269) 673-5472
Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Helping eliminate barriers to housing.
108 Grant St., Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Email: info@alleganhomelesssolutions.org

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Diaper Closet – monthly diaper program
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
282 12th Street Plainwell MI 49080 (269) 685-4166
Monday: Drive-thru only - 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm.
Tuesday: In person shopping/walk ins - 10am-12pm
Thursday: In person shopping/walk ins - 2pm-5pm
We have been providing services to the Plainwell, Otsego and Martin areas since 1983.

Community Clothes Closet – Free Clothing and More
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street, Allegan (269) 673-2254
Open Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

Grief Support Groups
Wings of Hope invites all to a welcoming and compassionate gathering. 1st Monday of the month – 6-7:30pm, Wings of Hope Office, 530 Linn St., Allegan; 2nd Tues. of each month – 12:30-2pm, United Methodist Church, 322 Maple St., Hopkins; 3rd Monday of each month – 3-4:30pm, Ransom District Library, 189 S. Sherwood Ave., Plainwell; 4th Tues., Grief Support Luncheon, 1pm, Salvino's 1290 M89, Plainwell.

Interfaith Sunday Services
Mothers Trust is a nonprofit that is offering inclusive, interfaith worship services open to all Sundays at 11am at 6676 122nd Ave. Fennville. Information: Megan Hybels 269 312-0369, megan_h@motherstrust.org

Love, Inc.
Love in the Name of Christ 4621 135th Ave. Hamilton
For assistance with food, personal care items, baby needs, household items, clothing, appliances, furniture, bicycles, laundry, showers & Life Skills Wrap Around Care, call 269 751-2533. Visit www.loveincnwa.org., email: office@loveincnwa.org.

People Helping People of Pullman
Assistance by appt. 269 236-6295

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center - Abuse Prevention and Healing
404 Sherman St., Allegan, MI 49010 www.safeharborcac.org, (269) 673-3791

St. Vincent de Paul-St. Margaret Conference - Food and More
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Sylvia's Place - Safe from Domestic Violence
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United Church of Wayland - Free Clothing
1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 4 - 6pm
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

Wings of Hope Hospice & Palliative Care - End of Life Care
530 Linn Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.wingsofhopehospice.com, (269) 686-8659

FOOD

Allegan Food Pantry
Church of God, 1313 Lincoln Rd., Allegan
Monday: 10 am–1pm; Tues.: 2–7pm; Fri. 1-4pm Curbside Service
Contact: Phone: 269 686-6369
Deliveries are made to homebound senior citizens.

Christian Neighbors, SE
282 12th St. Plainwell 269 685-4166

Christian Neighbors, Wayland
122 Church St. Wayland 269 792-2870

Congregational Kitchen - Thursday Dinner Pickup
Congregational Church 325 Cutler Street Allegan
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Epiphany Lutheran Church
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Food Truck - 3rd Friday of each month, 4:30 - 5:30pm
United Church of Wayland
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The Hands of Grace Food Pantry
United Methodist Church, 409 Trowbridge St., Allegan 269 673-4236
Tuesday: 9-11:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 9-11:45 a.m. and 5-7 p.m.; Friday: 10-11:45 a.m.
Food Pantry serves FOOD to residents of Allegan 49010 w/valid ID with current address ONLY.

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 Maple St. Hopkins
269 793-7340

Hungry for Christ
4565 135th Ave. Hamilton, 269 264-1307 x1000

Ladders of Hope USA - Food Assistance
717 East Main St, Fennville, MI 49408, www.laddersofhopemi.org., 269-686-6456

Martin Area Resource Center
1445 10th St, Martin (269) 672-5605
No appointment needed. Pick up by one person per household.

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FUN FOR THE FAMILY

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Senior Bingo!, Tuesdays from 1-3pm: American Legion Hall
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Allegan District Library, M-Th 10am-8pm, F 10am-5:30pm, Sat.10am-4pm:
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Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard Street, lower level Allegan (269) 673-4625

Allegan Event – Ropes Course, Walls and More
439 River Street Allegan
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Free Game Card: Fri., 4-9pm w/ $20 food purchase
Family 4-Pack: Sat., 5-9pm, 4 premier combo tickets w/pizza+ for $130
For more information call 269-430-3961 or check online at https://www.alleganevent.com

Allegan County Historical Society, Old Jail Museum.
Saturdays, 10 am – 4 pm, (269) 673-8292. Call to confirm hours or arrange for a private tour.
Email: oldjailmuseum06@yahoo.com Webpage: www.alleganoldjail.com

Bear & Fox Yarn Den
Bear & Fox 141 Brady St. Allegan
Tues. 2-8pm; Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun.-Mon closed
Enjoy beautiful yarns and classes or Tuesday Stitch Night.

Children's Book Box – Immanuel Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church 631 Grand Street Allegan
Children can find free books in the Book Box constructed by the Sunday School Youth. Check it out.

Iron Bridge Quilters - Thursdays, 10am-2pm
Blessed Sacrament Church 110 Cedar St. Allegan
All ages and levels of expertise are welcome. Create a piece for yourself, for a friend or for a charity. Contact Claudia at acrasmussen5@gmail.com or (269) 673-4579 for more information.

Rivertown Fitness for All Ages and Families
Rivertown Gym & Fitness, 739 Airway Dr. Allegan. Check on the Core and More class. Call Todd at 269 686-7900 or email rivertowngym@gmail.com for additional information.

Scouting: Allegan has a variety of scouting opportunities. Each group is meeting in different ways to stay safe.
Cub Scout Pack 3026: Grades K-5. Call Cub Master Ron Gunter ron.f.gunter@gmail.com
Boy Scouts BSA 91 (boys 11-17 yrs.): Contact Scout Master Rob Keen 269 568-0435, eckeen1112@gmail.com
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Laketown ending Interurban bus service in January

Township puts focus on Allegan County Transportation service.

The Laketown Township Board of Trustees is ending the experiment with the Interurban bus service and is looking to increase use of the Allegan County Transportation network instead.

The board voted 2-1 on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025, to cut ties with the Saugatuck-Douglas Interurban Transit Authority effective in 30 days. That means the on-demand bus service will no longer pick up or drop off passengers in Laketown Township as of Jan. 10, 2026.

The township began using the Douglas-based bus service on May 1 for a trial period to last through Oct. 31. An adult rider paid $1, senior citizen, handicapped or child rider paid 50 cents, to picked up or dropped off in the Interurban's service area of Saugatuck Township and the cities of Saugatuck, Douglas and Fennville.

The township said if the service was a success, it would consider funding through a millage request. The township was billed $7 per rider.

The township saw ridership as high as 846 people in July for a cost to the township of $5,929. The township had 823 riders in October for a cost of $5,761. The November numbers are not yet available. Since May, the township has paid $30,065 for the service.

The township originally budgeted $21,000 for the trial period but extended that period through March 2026. The board authorized another $26,000.

The board began looking for ways to reduce the costs, including changing the fare structure.

The Interurban offered a flat fee of $4,100 a month. In November, the board asked Supervisor Steven Ringelberg and Manager Stephanie Fox to negotiate better terms. They came back with one offer of $3,500 a month.

The Interurban started serving Laketown Township in May. Service is expected to end in January.

Allegan County Transportation

Board members were concerned about the cost and on Dec. 11 discussed having residents use Allegan County Transportation service.

Fox was instructed to contact Allegan County Transportation officials to help promote the service on the township's website. Fox will also collect ridership data and report back to the board after March 4.

The bus service out of Allegan schedules on a priority basis:

Priority One -- Standing Orders/Subscription Trips: These are services, established in advance, same passenger, same time, and same origin.

They are based on availability. Medical trips take precedence. Recurring or subscription trips for employment purposes for new passengers will be set up once the passenger has completed two weeks of travel with 1 or less no-shows.

Priority Two -- Reserved Trips: These rides are reserved before noon the prior business day in advance of service needed.

Priority Three -- On Demand: Trips requested without advance notice. Call by noon the day before travel is needed to secure your spot on the next day's schedule.

Adults and children 13 and older pay $2 for a one-way trip. Those 60 and over, people with disabilities and children 5-12 pay $1 for a one-way trip, except trips for those 60 and over are no charge (the Allegan Commission on Aging reimburses the ACT for such trips). Children up to 4 years old with an adult supervisor ride free.

Transportation is available from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays, and on Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. The service is funded through Allegan County. Laketown Township does not pay extra for the service.

Allegan County Transportation has been serving Allegan County since 2000. Its mission is to enhance and promote economic development and serve the transportation needs of Allegan County by providing safe, reliable, barrier-free travel.

Middle school students depict Anne Frank's life

L.E. White Middle School in Allegan held a very special Community Night where middle school students guided those in attendance through the "Anne Frank: A History for Today" museum exhibit. This was the first stop on the traveling museum's tour.

The information panels were designed by the Anne Frank Center at the University of South Carolina. Students volunteered to participate in the two-day training to become the docents who could walk their peers and community members through the life of Anne Frank.

More than once a docent could be heard stating that when Anne went into hiding and was later caught by the Nazis, she was their age – just a young teenage girl. This traveling exhibit is truly a powerful exploration of a brave girl whose history is one for people today.

Often, junior high or early high school students will read The Diary of Anne Frank in English class. The students who received the docent training received a deeper understanding of Anne's life, and the life of all Jewish people who were pursued by the Germans before and during World War II.

"In over twenty years of being an educator, this has been one of the most powerful and impactful experiences I have ever

been a part of," stated Principal Laura Feffer. "If these students represent the future of Allegan, then we are in good hands!"

As groups of seven were invited into the museum hall, others were able to watch The Ice Cream Man. The movie was the winner of the Emerging Filmmaker Contest during the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany in 2023. This remarkable story follows Ernst Cahn, a man who decided to become a resistance fighter in the Netherlands. The resistance of Cahn against Nazi aggression sparked an uprising in Amsterdam and a citywide strike of 300,000 workers on February 25 and 26, 1941, to protest Cahn's arrest at his Koco Ice Cream Parlor. Sadly, Cahn could not stop the rounding up and deportation of more than 420 Jewish men targeted by the infamous Butcher of Lyon. Of those men sent to Buchenwald and Mauthausen concentration camps, only two survived.

Community members thanked the students many times for their leadership and presentation skills. Many in attendance went away with a new understanding of Anne Frank and her plight. Thanks to the courage of her father, the only family member to survive Nazi concentration camp, Anne's diaries were edited for publication.

Special thanks were given to the Allegan Public Schools, Allegan Area ESA, and the Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF) for their support in this endeavor. And gratitude was given to those at the University of South Carolina's Anne Frank Center who created the information panels and the trainers.

VIEWPOINTS

We Need The Good News of Christmas

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

I was searching for words that would express an uplifting spirit this Christmas season. Too many of us, my self-included, consider the holiday season to be a distraction rather than a time to rejoice. Well my friend, Glenn Mollette happened to send me this piece while I was searching and lo and behold, after reading, I came to the conclusion that this is the season for joy and thankfulness. I must partake in it, because being happy and thankful is contagious, and I would like everyone to share that happiness this holiday season. Read on and focus on good things and cast aside the bad.

Dr. Glenn Mollette:

We never get a break from bad news. In recent days we have heard of people being killed at a Hanukkah celebration in Australia. There have been more school shootings from Brown University to Kentucky State University. Russia continues to bomb Ukraine and groceries continue to assault Americans' pocketbooks.

Yet, at Christmas time the overriding theme is good news. In a world of so much bad news comes the holiday of good news. The angel who appeared to the Shepherds who were watching their flock said, "Do not be afraid, I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord," Luke 2:10-11.

The central person of the good news is Jesus. He is the one the angels celebrated. His birth gave them reason to appear and make the wonderful announcement that brought joy to the shepherds and all who would be impacted by the birth of Jesus.

This Christmas you are probably one of many who welcomes good news. Maybe you have buried a wife, a husband or a child. At times, the loneliness and grief are unbearable and you wonder how you will ever survive your missing loved one. People are suffering financial stress from the cost of everyday living Sickness invades our lives at one time or another impacting us or someone we love. Life is filled with stressful situations that often rob us of peace.

The good news of Christmas is God has come in the flesh to love us, walk with us and bring joy that nothing or no one else can give. Jesus said "My peace I give unto you, not as the world gives, but give I unto you," John 14:27.

This Christmas there is much to focus on. You can spend your day focused on the Democrats or the Republicans. You can focus on our President or members of Congress. You can focus on all that you do not have or all that you wish you did not have. You can focus on your situation, your age, your health or you can focus on everyone else. Will this bring you joy?

Do not focus on regrets. Do not focus on mistakes, problems, old habits or sins. Jesus came to help us overcome all of these and more. Because of his life, death and resurrection we have a Savior who has given us every reason to look up and forward instead of down and back.

Jesus told his disciples in John 16:33, "Take heart, I have overcome the world."

While the media is filled with bad news, take heart, the message of Christmas is good news. Therefore, as Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled." May we all be filled with the good news of the great story of Christmas.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

Since the Great Covid Shut Down, Christmas has become very "the past." I don't blame it on the virus nor closures used to slow its progress.

Some has come from our penchant for online shopping, ordering food and delivery services, plus political and economic turmoil in our country. Worse, we have used our devices and apps to isolate ourselves from the rest of the world.

Nor do I think this perception is based on that I am a grouchy old man, or even believe in Yogi Berra's veracity when he reminded us, "Nostalgia ain't what it used to be."

I do not believe that most of Christmas has changed. For those who profess their faith in Jesus, the nativity story remains the same.

Rather, it is how we observe and celebrate Christmas that has changed. For those who lament, "Well, it isn't like it used to be," you are absolutely right. Maybe, just maybe it has changed for the better.

The harsh reality is our culture has changed, and an abundance of worrisome challenges stares us in the face. Maybe we are letting our fear of them get the best of us.

Here is what I mean. My sister chased our family tree back to Merry Olde England in the 1100s.

It was not very merry for most people, especially the peasants, serfs and even the skilled laborers. They had rough lives, often short and brutal. It wasn't even "olde" because only decades earlier the Anglo-Saxons were defeated by the Normans, and the country was run roughshod by the French.

Real power was in the hands of the nobility, knights, royalty and the upper-echelon clergy, whether they were Anglo-Saxon or Norman. The legend of Robin Hood was built on a noble archer who turned to 12 o'clock the noses of those who lorded it over the poor.

Then came Dec. 24, and everyone laid down their tools, warring armies declared a truce, and abuse ground to a temporary halt. Woven strands of holly were placed over spinning wheels and looms, not for decoration as much as to say, "we're taking a break; a holiday."

The same thing was true in the small factories and workshops. From Christmas Day until Jan. 6, the people partied and celebrated in both sacred and secular ways.

That structure of abject poverty for many, comfort for a few continued for centuries, right up to our own time. Jane Austen's novels, which reflect upper middle-class lives, are countered by Charles Dickens' bleak stories of life for the working class and unemployed.

It was during this time that Christmas was "modernized," and my guess is the grouches and grumps were not happy about the changes.

Queen Victoria and family added the German tradition of a Christmas tree in the palace. U.S. cartoonist Thomas Nast re-imaged Santa Claus as a well-fed jolly fellow instead of the traditional St. Nicholas who was gaunt and tired-looking.

Clement Moore moved Christmas gift-giving from Dec. 6 to Christmas Eve and Day. And Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" put the emphasis on compassion for those on the margin of society.

That theme is found in our country as well. My parents were part of the Lost Generation, the Silent and Greatest Generations. Public health was not a universal priority and many children died in infancy. Education was sporadic, there were no financial safety nets for anyone. The social and economic divide was obvious, but it also was a century of opportunities to advance.

They had real challenges in their lives. For many, it began with the Spanish flu immediately followed World War I. When the war ended the doughboys came home, and unemployment shot up.

There was mass hysteria about "Reds" or Marxist communists and socialists taking over the country. The nation went through Agricultural Depression of the 1920s. After that came a decade of the Great Depression, then World War II, then the Korean War.

Segregation and bigotry were an everyday specter o for all minorities; women were not allowed to have financial credit in their own names until just half a century ago; and domestic abuse was considered the cost of not being a "good" wife.

Through it all, people observed and celebrated Christmas.

Generations of women (who was mainly did the work) gave their all to make the end of the year as happy a time as possible. They baked the traditional delicacies, prepared the meal and decorated the family home.

Legions of church women, along with the more affluent "women who lunch," included community members who were excluded most of the year.

Choirs and musical groups gave concerts and recitals and led sing-alongs because music, especially group singing, lifts the spirits. Meals and often "practical" gifts were given to those in need. The Marines collected and delivered Toys for Tots.

If nothing else, we can do our part by volunteering to ring the bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle campaigns. Some of my friends do it every year. They, like everyone else who participates in caring for others, finds their own Christmas joy multiplied.

We do all this and more because we know life is short and limited. There is no perfect time to give and receive joy.

Christmas has not changed because the old story of angels, shepherds the manger and Holy Family have not changed. They are eternal because it is all based on divine love.

How we observe that event does change, because we work hard so we can celebrate Christmas. It changes only because we are always on the lookout for new and creative ways to tell the unchangeable story in ways we can understand.

So how about we work to make this a good and memorable Christmas for those around us and ourselves? Quit shedding tears into your second or third Tom and Jerry about how miserable life has become. Tears only spoil the taste. It's last call, time to blow your nose and get to work.

Go out, get numbingly cold while you put decorations or lights on the outside of your house. That's your gift to the neighborhood. From whatever you do to start, build on it and have fun. Keep going, if only because it is contagious and will benefit others.

As for a gift to yourself, make a telephone call to an old friend, say "Merry Christmas" to someone or whatever it might be. Just be intentional and create memories for yourself. Save yourself future regret by making the connection when you can.

A few years from now, if you are still pretending to be Ebenezer Scrooge before the trio of spooks disturbed his sleep, you can snarl "Christmas ain't what it used to be." I doubt it will bring you any joy. You have a far better chance of finding it by taking positive action. Just keep going.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Republicans should have extended ACA benefits

To the editor:

This past week, the Republican led government had a chance to make things right for those of us who are about a billion dollars short of being billionaires. They chose, instead, to continue providing tax breaks to corporations and welfare to the wealthy at our expense. What does this mean for those of us who are either retired or pack a lunch to go to work everyday?

In 2025, significant cuts to Medicare funding were enacted as part of the "One Big Benefits for Billionaires Bill" (H.R. 1), which was signed into law on July 4, 2025. The bill includes over $1 trillion in reductions to health programs, primarily targeting Medicaid, but also affecting Medicare.

Projected Impact: An estimated $500 billion reduction in Medicare funding is expected between 2026 and 2034 due to automatic spending cuts triggered by paying Americans. We are seeing an impact already: ACA (Obamacare) premiums are sky rocketing, Medicare recipients are seeing increases in their premiums, deductibles and copays, while people with chronic, dangerous, or debilitating illness are seeing their safety nets shredded. This legislation introduced the largest reductions in federal health care funding in U.S. history, reflecting a broader trend of reducing federal support for health care, which will have lasting implications for millions of Americans.

Key Provisions Impacting Medicare

Total Cuts: Over $1 trillion in cuts to health programs, primarily targeting Medicaid, but also affecting Medicare.

Projected Impact: An estimated $500 billion reduction in Medicare funding is expected between 2026 and 2034 due to automatic spending cuts triggered by increased deficits.

Changes to Eligibility and Coverage

Eligibility for Non-Citizens: New restrictions limit Medicare eligibility for lawfully present immigrants, affecting many who previously qualified.

Impact on Beneficiaries: These changes will lead to reduced access to care for vulnerable populations, including older adults and those with disabilities.

Other Consequences of the Cuts

Insurance Loss: Approximately 10 million working Americans are projected to lose health insurance coverage due to these cuts.

Increased Financial Strain: The cuts are anticipated to worsen financial challenges for healthcare providers, potentially leading to fewer services and closings of smaller local hospitals.

How did this vote play out with our local federal officials? Senators Peters and Slotkin voted for the Democrats' bill which would have extended ACA subsidies, kept Medicare funding in line, and supported Medicaid. Bill Huizenga, the person this district hired to represent us in Congress, could not bother himself to move any healthcare legislation in the "Peoples" House. His recent note explaining his position went something like: "yada, yada, yada, waste, fraud and abuse, yada yada." To him, the solution to (alleged) waste, fraud and abuse is to kill these needed programs while looking the other way when it comes to the tidal wave of costly corruption originating with the tenant in our White House. By the way, did you happen to notice the administration is planning large cuts to the Veterans Administration? Is this making America great?

William and Mary Jones

Keeping the Lamps Lit When Hatred Makes Its Campaigns

Dear Editor:

There are moments when winter does not merely darken the hours but seems to test the human spirit itself.

News arrives like a cold draft through the door: reports of violence against a synagogue in Australia, threats and attacks against Jewish communities, homes violated, bodies harmed, fear deliberately planted. These are not isolated events. They are campaigns—organized or emboldened hatred seeking to extinguish light by intimidation, to make people afraid to gather, to pray, to sleep, to belong.

Hatred prefers darkness.

It operates best when we are disoriented, exhausted, and tempted to look away.

This is precisely why hygge—often misunderstood as mere coziness—matters most here.

Hygge is not escapism.

It is resistance.

To keep a lamp lit in winter is not to deny the night; it is to refuse to surrender the house to it.

When hatred escalates, our attention is the first battlefield. Fear demands fixation. Rage demands amplification. Despair demands silence. Yet the ancient wisdom—shared across Jewish, Christian, and human traditions—remains steady: turn your face toward the light.

This does not mean ignoring injustice or violence. It means refusing to let darkness set the terms of our interior life.

A candle in the window after an attack says: You are not alone.

A gathered table says: We still trust one another.

A prayer spoken aloud says: The world has not ended; goodness has not fled.

For those who belong to communities historically targeted by hatred, this practice is not abstract. It is survival. Jewish families lighting candles after threats. Christian neighbors standing guard in quiet solidarity. Ordinary people choosing courage over paralysis. These are acts of hygge as moral discipline.

Light does not shout.

It does not stab.

It does not break in during the night.

It simply remains.

And remaining is powerful.

To remain focused on the light is not naïveté—it is spiritual strategy. Darkness feeds on reaction, on spectacle, on the illusion that it is inevitable. Light, by contrast, grows through attention, through repetition, through daily, almost boring faithfulness.

We keep the lamps lit not because the night is gentle, but because it is not.

In this season—between holidays, between griefs, between headlines—we do the small, defiant things:

• We speak names with care rather than slurs.

• We check on neighbors.

• We refuse to let fear choose our posture.

• We tend warmth where cold has been intentionally sown.

Hygge teaches us that winter does not end by force, but by endurance.

And so we light again tonight—not as denial, not as decoration—but as declaration:

The light is still here.

It has not been overcome.

And it will not be.

We keep it lit together.

Jay Oetman

Do the Local Thing

Shopping in town helps local shops, cafes and restaurants, and the business owners who make them unique! When you shop local the whole community benefits.

ShopLocal

The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

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Obituaries

Barbara Bouton-Goldberg

Barbara Bouton-Goldberg, ("Bobbie" to her New Jersey family), passed peacefully Friday, December 5th at approximately 1:00 pm in her home in Closter surrounded by her husband Philip, her family and childhood friend, Penny Axe.

Barb (to her Michigan family) was born in 1939 and raised in Allegan, Michigan. In school she excelled as a student. She loved baseball and keep stats for the baseball team. In 1957 she graduated from AHS and went on to attend and graduate from Western Michigan College studying social work. While there Barb met Jim Bouton, a handsome, energetic baseball pitcher who would eventually be signed by the New York Yankees organization. They were married in Allegan in 1962.

Jim was called up to the Yankees in 1962 and pitched in several World Series games. He then became more famous after he wrote (and she helped) the tell-all book, Ball Four. Barb followed in Jim's shadow while making lifelong friendships along the way. They had 3 wonderful children, Michael, David & Laurie. Jim's waning baseball career took the family across the country: New York, Houston, Seattle, later Durango, Mexico and a final stop in Atlanta. They divorced in 1981.

Barb's depth of sports knowledge minutia and genuine interest in sports would serve her well and made her extremely appealing to sports writers. She co-authored her own tell-all book Home Games, 1982, with Nancy Marshall another famous baseball player's wife.

Barb met "the love of her life," Philip Goldberg, a College Physics professor, on a singles' hike. They married in 1986 and she orchestrated numerous tours around the globe whether he wanted to go or not. They spent several months in China on Phil's sabbatical at the University in Bejing. Once it was discovered that Barb was also an asset the University recruited her to teach conversational English. In their off time they traveled the country and made many friends and memories. On another sabbatical they spent several months in Los Alamos, New Mexico. While there they immersed themselves in the local culture and hiked the area almost daily. Their extensive travels were the subjects of many of their holiday cards each year.

Bobbie's volunteering was selfless and relentless. She volunteered annually at both the Englewood and Closter Library book sales. She assisted in developing the "Historical Englewood Eclectic Walking Tour." Was a member of the Englewood and Closter (+20 years) Historical Societies.

She co-authored with the "Friends of the Englewood Library" the historical book, "Englewood and Englewood Cliffs", published in 1998.

Barbara Bouton-Goldberg

She was a constant "Friend of the Lustron House Museum" in Closter (1950 metal house).

Bobbie served on the "Closter Historic Preservation Commission" as a Member of Board, also on the "Closter Environmental Commission." Bobbie work tirelessly at the "MacBain Farm Park" and served on their Committee.

She was a member of multiple book clubs at the same time.

There are many other causes she supported financially, too numerous to list.

The Borough of Closter recognized Bobbie's volunteering with a Proclamation of Appreciation of Public Service for her dedicated unlimited, selfless amounts of time focusing on historical preservation and restoration of landmark properties, immeasurable knowledge, endless dedication and invaluable research to insure the preservation of Closter's rich history. The Mayor called for recognition of her on Nov. 24th, 2025.

Barb "Bobbie" is survived by her loving husband, Philip Goldberg, her sons Michael and David Bouton, grand-children; Alexandria and John. Her sisters Janet (Vic) Zajac and Fay (Maria) Tanner. And step-son Daniel (Caren) Goldberg and grand-children Hannah and Jake.

She was preceded in death by her daughter Laurie Bouton, mother, Sylvia Tanner, father Jack Boyer, her brother Dennis Heister, and step-son Noah Goldberg.

Barb's warm, sincere personality drew people to her. She was naturally open and accepting of all people. Her sense of humor was well known to include Mad Magazine, the cartoons Charlie Brown and Far Side.

Her smile and laughter preceded her. Wherever she focused her interests she soon had friends. Whether she was volunteering at the Englewood Library, substitute teaching, getting her car fixed at Siracuso's, or attending a cultural event at Lincoln Center, she rarely walked away without making a positive impression and a new friend. She was loved by many and known by many more. She embodied hope, resilience, patience and goodwill. The world was a far better place with her in it.

Barb was cremated and will be interred at Brookside Cemetery in Englewood, New Jersey at a date to be determined. Also a memorial of her life will take place at a future date.

Thank you to all the people that helped through this difficult time.

Please take a minute to remember her and her effect on the world.

Sue Ann Haas

Sue Ann Haas, 78, of Allegan, MI passed away Monday, December 8, 2025 at Corewell Health Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids. Born January 30, 1947 in Allegan, she was the daughter of the late Steven James and Jean Marie (Bartz) Haas. Sue was a long-time member of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. She was a talented seamstress and had also worked as a hairstylist for a number of years. Sue loved needlepoint and spent many hours knitting and crocheting beautiful items for family and friends. She was also passionate about animals, especially raising horses and goats, and had welcomed many dogs into her family over the years. Sue was a patient and kind teacher who loved to share her love of horses by teaching young people to ride and care for them. She was a wonderful, caring woman who is deeply missed those who loved her.

Sue Ann Haas

Sue is survived by her children, Anthony (Susanne) Walters and Janet (Joe) McDermott; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents.

The family will receive friends at Gorden Funeral Residence, Allegan Chapel, on Monday, December 15, 2025 from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. A funeral service will begin at 1:00 PM and burial will follow in Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church Cemetery.

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LIVING WITH GRIEF

BY RONNIE EWING/ AFTERCARE SPECIALIST

LIVING WITH GRIEF, is a monthly column provided by GordenFuneral Residence. Each month LIVING WITH GRIEF will feature some helpful advice as you the reader move forward through your personal grieving process, or simply want to be educated to help those whom you may know have recently experienced a loss, or traumatic event.

Coping with the Holidays.. The ability to cope with the holidays for the most part can be handled quite easily by avoiding the old habit of being busy to avoid being alone, or filling your time so you don't have to think. Grief and mourning should be endured, but in a positive way. Here are some suggestions from the International Grief Institute:

- Recognize sorrow can't be fixed.
- Respect how one chooses to cope. (This excludes self harm..)
- Resist the urge to fill up your calendar.
- Don't let sorrow steal your joy.
- Volunteer in the community. Play Santa, try Caroling, serve the less fortunate.
- Do above in honor of your loved one.

Remember, we can avoid the negative entrapments of bereavement by celebrating thanks for whatever measure of time we had with our loved ones and also hold on or add to traditions they held on to while they were with us. Holidays can be festive while you and I continue, LIVING WITH GRIEF.

Gorden Funeral Residence

Letters to the Editor

Supreme Court and the Constitution plus government issues.

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank letter to the editor writer Vilius Kampas for a well written letter which gives insights into today's political climate.

The doctrine "Opus Dei" I researched and found it to be influential in many of the Supreme Courts decisions. I have often wondered why Supreme Court justices have ignored written law found in the Constitution in their recent rulings.

The Opus Dei theories were founded by St.Josemaria Escriva in 1928, and its headquarters is in Rome. Today the organization is secretive, and the current leader is Fernando Ocariz Brana.

Opus Dei supports authoritarian regimes, elitism, and misogyny. The philosophy is also bound to secrecy, control, and manipulation through deception which misleads its members about their rights and status under Canon Law. Their goal is to completely control your environment.

Leonard Leo is a follower of Opus Dei. He is also influential with Republican Presidents when naming Supreme Court justices. He gives Republican Presidents a list from which to choose potential candidates. The following justices were on Leonard Leo's list that are presently on the Supreme Court: 1. Neil Gorsuch, 2. John Roberts, 3. Samuel Lito, 4. Brett Kavanaugh, and 5. Amy Coney Barrett. None of these justices are followers of Opus Dei, but to be considered by Leonard Leo he knows how they will vote which favors " Totalitarianism ".

It is easier to understand why justices have voted in favor of giving the present administration additional powers that contradict the CONSTITUTION. It does not make it right or ethical, but understandable. It dilutes the separation of powers granted in the US constitution. The judicial branch (Supreme Court) is behaving like a right wing political party. I gave never agreed with lifetime appointments, and in today's political climate many not so good decisions are being decided.

My biggest fear is the private police force that has taken place. A very gross example is the arrest of two firefighters legally here in the United States doing vital work fighting wild fires. What could be more noble? One aspect to the wild fires: Trump had the crazy and uneducated idea of diverting 5.2 billion gallons of water to California with what he claimed would stop all wild fires. Of course the water never got close to the wild fires. It did cause some major flooding to many areas. Fortunately local governmental officials contacted the Army Corp of Engineers to stop the flooding and potential deaths, and yet he bragged about diverting water. A waste of one of our precious resources.

That divertion cost unbelievable amounts of money that could have been used for many worthwhile endeavors. First term Former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson may have been accurate in his assessment of President Trump's cognitive abilities.

The worst part of how the country is begun are the incompetent people put in charge of governmental agencies. The dismissals of career experts in their field of work and replaced by loyalists who have limited background or experience shows a total lack of leadership. Our country will surprise as history has shown that democracy no matter how fragile it will not break.

The State of the Economy is in shambles. The U.S. jobs market has gone from healthy and robust to lethargic during the first 8 months with Trump in the White House.

August numbers on jobs were 22,000 while the unemployment ticked up to 4.3%. Revisions showed the economy lost b 13,000 jobs in June. A recent poll showed President Trump's approval rating in July was 38% while Trump's trying to find somebody to blame other than his own policies.

President Trump claimed without evidence that deporting immigrants would protect "Black Jobs" , but Black unemployment has claimed to 7.5 %the highest since 2021.Also since April manufacturers have cut 42,000jobs and builders (construction) have downsized by 8,000. The logging and mining se torso which includes oil and gas have shed 12,000 jobs since January.

Energy administrators say an average of 100,000 barrels (oil) a day will be lost. Electricity costs have increased 4.6% so far this year, something Trump promised would decrease.

Trump said in a speech that are year from now everything will change. He just admitted that the Bureau of Labor Statistics were not rigged or manipulated.

Stephen Moore an economist and conservative Heritage Foundation member and supporter of Trump said the labor market is definitely softening. He also said the economy was adjusting to the higher tariffs and immigration reductions that surely will lower the pool of available workers (the deportations are creating havoc to the economy).

In my wildest dreams I never thought the DOJ and Pentagon would be filled with scandals.

Investigating veterans who are now serving as Senators, and wanting to charge them with a crime for mak a video telling service men and women that they do not need to honor illegal orders. The oath that service people take is to honor the constitution not any individual including the commander-in- chief . Since when is honoring the Constitution and not following illegal orders a crime.

The President of the United States wants these Senators executed, and most Republicans are silent. It seems that if a person is truthful and ethical they are deemed a criminal, and if one is willing to break the law they are rewarded. How distressing!

This should not be tolerated!

Each week more problems are occurring, and leadership is lacking. Citizens need to pay attention to what is happening to the fabric of our country. Demand action from your representatives!

Mark Austin, Hopkins

Reader suggests 3 changes to health policies

Dear Mike the Editor,

After reading your critique of the Congressional Schedule last week, I called a friend to see what I was missing. One thing that is not immediately apparent from the roughly one-quarter empty schedule (available on Roll Call) is that the empty space belongs to committees. Committees meet only when the chamber is not in session.

Committees are meant to be the workhorses of Congress, yet all most of us see is political grandstanding during presidential appointment hearings.

Committees are actually responsible for full oversight of government agencies; drilling down to bill language and intent; exposing special favors in department budgets; debating policy disagreements; and more.

The fact that committees aren't doing this contributes to our current healthcare mess: inflation, fraud, ongoing patient debt, and $ 38.5 Trillion in national debt. (You won't believe the dearth of video on CSPAN's Committee page.)

This is why the current healthcare debate is taking place in hallways, sound bites, and press conferences. Without strong leadership in Congress, that role is left to the president. So that's who I wrote on Monday.

Dear President Trump,

Thank you so much for working on HSA Accounts and eliminating wasteful subsidies that benefit insurance companies.

Could you make three changes to HSA Accounts?

Please DECOUPLE these accounts from the wrap-around insurance mandate. It's a huge tax required to donate to them, just another gift to insurance companies enabling them to control our care.

Next, please RAISE THE CAP of annual donations to $15,000 or even more.

Finally, please EXPAND QUALIFIED HSA SPENDING to include Health Sharing memberships and insurance premiums. That gives people real choice, instead of slavery to insurance plans, protocols, and "managed care" which is a joke.

An additional bonus would be allowing people to donate from their own HSA to others in need, and to bequeath it to their children.

I'm a lifelong nurse who entered health policy when Obamacare was passed. In all my study and work with patients and families, I believe these three changes would make the greatest difference for the people who truly need better options to pay for healthcare.

This path would lift MANY working poor and self-employed out of Medicaid dependence and Marketplace subsidies. It would let them manage their own pre-tax dollars for their healthcare, and I'm convinced it would dramatically reduce fraud. People guard their own money. Besides, we have banks and the IRS guarding these accounts against misuse.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of this plan for the country would be restoring people's economic voice in healthcare. Special interests have controlled huge pots of money from employers and government, and used it to lead patients and clinicians around by the nose for FAR too long.

Thank you for all you do, Mr. President. God bless you for your heart to secure our lives, liberties, and property including conscience.

Sincerely,
Abigail Nobel,
BSN, RN, MA

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- Providing scholarships and youth leadership opportunities
- Expanding access to books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- Helping families build brighter futures through My Future Fund

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Two flee late-night laundry explosion, blaze

By Scott Sullivan
Writer

A gas leak explosion at Laundry Tyme in Douglas Dec. 11 damaged the Weathervane Mall business but two customers, then inside, got out unhurt.

The Saugatuck Township Fire District responded to a 4:30 a.m. call reporting smoke and an explosion at the 102 S. Blue Star Hwy. laundromat, part of the Zoom Express franchise.

The customers told first responders they smelled gas before the explosion.

The fire spread with smoke pouring out, the air ducts ablaze and smoke detectors sounding.

The STFD ladder truck was dispatched, plus mutual aid gas company assistance were requested.

The night sky lit up, Blue Star was shut down as Douglas police, Life EMS plus Graafschap, Fennville, Ganges and Hamilton firefighters arrived.

A water supply was established by 5:01 a.m. Gas was shut off and Consumers Energy crews arrived.

The response lasted several hours before the scene was last cleared at 11:16 a.m.

Zoom Express owners Brian and Anne McGowan said on social media afterward that the customers, smelling gas, were walking out when the explosion, which originated in the utility room of the full-service side, occurred.

"We are incredibly grateful they made it out safely," the owners posted. "Emergency personnel responded almost immediately. Their quick action and professionalism helped contain the situation, and we are deeply thankful for their service."

They reported the vast majority of laundry and dry-cleaning items are intact, aside from smoke exposure. Everything will be rewashed, repackaged and available for pickup on Monday (Dec. 15).

"We are currently working on the self-service side of the mat, and we hope to have full-service operations back up within the next day or so, The self-service area will remain closed for about a week while cleanup continues, the McGowans said.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

LAST MINUTE GIFT IDEAS

As Christmas draws near, many shoppers find themselves searching for thoughtful gifts with limited time remaining. While the calendar may be tight, meaningful presents can still be found with a little creativity and planning. Last minute gifts often benefit from focusing on usefulness, personal connection, and local availability.

Gift cards remain one of the most practical options for late shoppers. Cards to local restaurants, coffee shops, bookstores, and small retailers offer flexibility while supporting neighborhood businesses. Experience-based gift cards, such as for concerts, fitness classes, or seasonal activities, provide memories that last well beyond the holidays.

Locally made goods are another strong choice when time is short. Handmade candles, baked goods, artwork, and specialty foods can often be found at local shops or holiday markets. These items not only offer uniqueness but also reflect the character of the community. Many artisans package their products in gift-ready formats, saving additional time.

Subscriptions and memberships make thoughtful presents that require little physical shopping. Streaming services, digital magazines, audiobooks, and meal planning programs can often be purchased and delivered instantly. Memberships to museums, zoos, gyms, or cultural organizations provide year-round enjoyment and are easy to arrange online or at local offices.

Personalized gifts can still be meaningful even without long production times. Framed family photos, printed photo books, or custom calendars can often be created quickly through local print shops or same-day services. Handwritten notes explaining the significance of the gift can add a personal touch that recipients appreciate.

Practical gifts also shine during last minute shopping. Quality blankets, kitchen tools, cozy socks, or winter accessories are items many people use daily. Choosing something well-made and seasonally appropriate often proves more valuable than elaborate packaging.

For children, books, board games, puzzles, and craft kits remain dependable options. These gifts encourage learning and creativity while offering shared family experiences. Many local bookstores and toy shops provide knowledgeable staff who can help guide selections quickly.

While last minute shopping can feel rushed, it also offers an opportunity to focus on thoughtful simplicity. Gifts that support local businesses, create shared experiences, or meet everyday needs often carry lasting value. With intention and care, even last minute choices can deliver holiday joy and meaning.

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Barrel needs varnish, city concedes

By Scott Sullivan
Writer

The City of Douglas, criticized on social media for lack of maintenance on the iconic Root Beer Barrel, responded i last week it will look to varnishing the redwood structure more frequently.

"I spent 6 years of my life," former vendor Mick White posted Dec. 8 on social, "and my own $$ on materials and labor EVERY fall to make sure the Root Beer Barrel was varnished and ready to withstand our brutal winters.

"Two years later this is what the Root Beer Barrel is looking like going into winter?" White went on, posting recent pictures of it he had taken.

"I was told the quickest way to destroy the Root Beer Barrel would be to not take the varnishing seriously every fall ... and so that's what I did. I took it seriously

"My question," White went on, "is ANYONE TAKING IT SERIOUSLY? The picture shows it down to the original wood. This cannot be good for it."

"We've seen recent comments," the city responded in a public statement Dec. 10, "about the condition of the Root Beer Barrel and wanted to share a quick update.

"The city has a maintenance contract with Vork (Brothers Painting) to perform exterior maintenance on the Barrel on a three-year cycle, and work has been done within the last couple years.

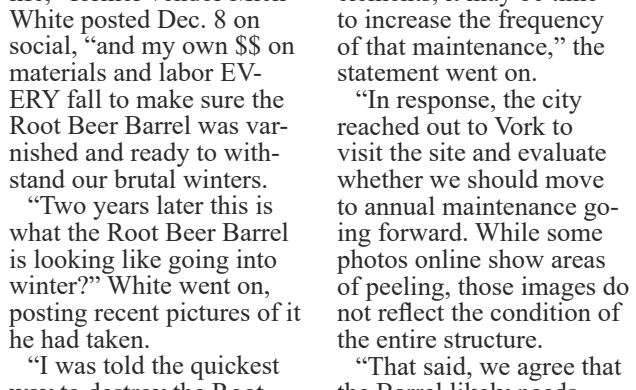
"After the Barrel closed for the season, (current vendor) Todd Martinson met with us and let us know that, given the weather and exposure to the elements, it may be time to increase the frequency of that maintenance," the statement went on.

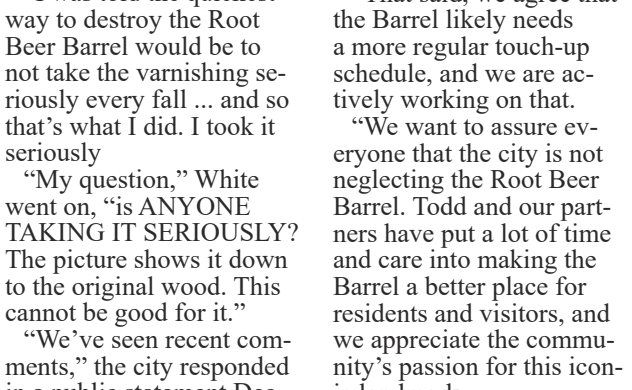
"In response, the city reached out to Vork to visit the site and evaluate whether we should move to annual maintenance going forward. While some photos online show areas of peeling, those images do not reflect the condition of the entire structure.

"That said, we agree that the Barrel likely needs a more regular touch-up schedule, and we are actively working on that.

"We want to assure everyone that the city is not neglecting the Root Beer Barrel. Todd and our partners have put a lot of time and care into making the Barrel a better place for residents and visitors, and we appreciate the community's passion for this iconic landmark.

"We'll continue to fine-tune our maintenance plan, so it stays in great shape for years to come," the city's statement.





Park ■ *from Page A1*

When addressing the needs along the 1.6 miles of road, there would be 6,800 feet of water main replaced plus lead service lines. 5,800 feet of sanitary sewer replacement along with 1,600 feet of storm sewer. To complete the project, sidewalks will be replaced on an as-need basis.

The endeavor seems rather lofty to some, but the Rossman Park neighborhood homes date back to the 1800s. In the 1930s, drinking water and sanitary infrastructure were installed. These lines are almost a century old. Much of the reconstruction will be beyond the naked eye, but residents will notice the resurfacing of all of the roads in the north and south sections of the neighborhood.

A pre-construction meeting will be held on a date in March 2026. During that meeting, more answers will be given regarding scheduling, trash pickup, mail delivery, detours, driveway accessibility, utility service coordination, and communication. In the meanwhile, questions can be directed to Abonmarche Project Manager Leah Bectel at lbectel@abonmarche.com or City Manager Joel Dye at jdye@cityofallegan.org.

Residents like Maryann Girouard and business owners in the Rossman Park neighborhood and along Trowbridge, Walnut and Chestnut Streets in Downtown Allegan attended the Open House at City Hall on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, to review plans and ask questions regarding the street and infrastructure improvements that would occur during 2026. Photo: G. Voss

Wreaths ■ *from Page A1*

the War of 1812 through Desert Storm. Program Coordinator Amanda Strickfaden did not wish for any to be forgotten and as volunteers spread out across the cemetery to lay wreathes, she stood and said the name of each soldier that lay at Oakwood. These joined the almost 2 million soldiers who were remembered in every state of the union and even some abroad.

Wreaths Across America is a non-profit committed to teaching all generations the value of freedom. Through their efforts, it is estimated that over 3.1 million wreaths were laid in 5,598 locations across all 50 states and internationally.

The balsam fir wreaths were made by the National Wreaths Across America Organization in Maine and adorned with a single handmade red bow plus a tag of remembrance. This is a way to remember all who have served. There are many who no longer have family members who can clear their grave or remember their service. The day brings communities together to not only remember all who have served but those who currently serve.

In Allegan, striving to not only find donations for 1000 wreaths, but volunteers to distribute the wreaths seemed a daunting task. In the end Oakwood Cemetery volunteers HONORED 900 military veterans in grand style on a frosty day with temperatures well below freezing. Brave men and women were REMEMBERED.

Wreaths Across America began in 1992 as a pilgrimage of Morrill and Karen Worchester from Maine to Arlington Cemetery in Washington D.C. The non-profit has grown in the last 30 years. This year on December 13th, at the Arlington National Cemetery, over 27,000 volunteers helped lay 265,000 wreaths on gravesites and niche columns.

Oakwood Cemetery in Allegan, MI addressed the challenge and braved the weather to REMEMBER, HONOR, and TEACH 900 of its own.

Saugatuck Twp awarded 2.46 million

By Scott Sullivan
Writer

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund board has recommended Saugatuck Township receive a $2.46-million grant to establish a new 119-acre Riverside Park and nature preserve on the Kalamazoo River.

The property sits adjacent to 145 acres of state-owned marshland and directly across from the township-owned River Bluff Park. It features about 2,200 feet of river frontage and inhabits diverse natural features, such as extensive coastal wetlands, a wooded ravine with a flowing tributary, shrub wetlands, and a large open field.

"As one of the last remaining large, undeveloped riverfront parcels in the township," township manager Daniel DeFranco said, "this site offers a rare opportunity to balance ecological protection with meaningful recreational development and create a connected conservation corridor.

"Unlike other sections of the Kalamazoo River that have seen subdivision development and riverbank landscaping, this section has largely retained its natural landscape. Acquiring this property would prevent future fragmentation and protect the ecological integrity of this unique river corridor."

Throughout the upcoming year, the township will prepare to open the park to the public, installing a defined parking area, entrance signage, trail maps and a short interpretive trail loop to provide safe, passive public access.

Additional features could include: universally accessible trails, a wetland boardwalk, river overlooks, nature-based play features, an outdoor classroom, a kayak launch, a fishing pier, and athletic-use amenities, such as a 9-hole disc golf course, flexible-use athletic amenities and a 3.1-mile cross-country trail loop.

The new features will be concentrated in an open field area, preserving more than 75 percent of the site for natural space and restoration.

"Acquiring this property," said DeFranco, "is a transformational opportunity to expand recreation access, protect critical natural resources and create a destination park serving those living and visiting in the tri-community area.

"Through conservation-centered design and long-term stewardship, Saugatuck Township will ensure that Riverside Park becomes a model of natural resource protection, education, and responsible public access for generations to come."

It was one of 15 land acquisition grants worth $25.8 million awarded statewide to public applicants based on criteria including natural resource access and conservation, proximity to population clusters, applicants' committed matching funds and priorities such as trails, regional significance, public access to lakes and rivers, and wildlife habitat,

"The grant," said DeFranco, "is significant in supporting our vision of the township's five-year Parks and Recreation plan and helping us create opportunities for valuable natural and recreational resources for our residents and visitors."

The township has received more than $7.2 million in grants and other external funding sources since voters approved the Parks and Trails millage in 2022. By the end of 2026, that millage will have generated approximately $726,000 in local revenue over the three years it has been in place.

"That $7,287,347 in external grant funding for parks, land conservation, trails and habitat restoration projects," said DeFranco, "equates to a return of approximately $10.04 in outside funding for every $1 collected through the millage.

"We're grateful for the strong positive support from community members and regional stakeholders in wanting to improve recreational access while preserving high-quality natural resources in Saugatuck Township," DeFranco said.

The Trust Fund board's recommendations will go to the Michigan legislature for review as part of the appropriations process. Upon approval, the legislature will forward a bill to the governor for signing.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Allegan County's five-year Recreation Plan draft is available for public review and comment. The plan can be reviewed at the county's website www.allegancounty/org/parks or at the Parks, Recreation & Tourism office located in the County Services Building, 3283 122nd Avenue, Allegan, MI, 49010

The five-year Recreation Plan guides us on the decisions to be made over the next five years regarding the parks, campgrounds, and recreational land operated by Allegan County. This plan has to be submitted and accepted by the MDNR to be eligible for recreational grants

A public hearing for review and comment on the plan will be scheduled at a later date. Concerns and comments are encouraged and can be made at the Parks Advisory Board meetings or in writing to the Allegan County Parks Manager

Brandy Gildea, Parks Manager
Allegan County Parks, Recreation & Tourism
E-mail: parks@allegancounty.org

Otsego Township

Board Resolution
RESOLUTION TO AMEND PENSION PLAN
Number 2025-02

WHEREAS, MCL 41.110b authorizes a Township to offer any other employment benefit authorized by state or federal law; and

WHEREAS, the IRS allows for withdrawal at age 59 1⁄2.

WHEREAS, the Township Board desires to amend the existing 401(a) plan normal retirement age from 60 1⁄2 to 59 1/2;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Otsego Township board hereby amends the pension plan normal retirement age from 60% to 59 1/2.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member Moll.

Second offered by Board Member Burns.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

"Aye": Gudith, Moll, Burns, Colin, Lunarde-Alexander, Bumgart, Winn

"Nay": None

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted with an effective date of December 8, 2025.

Jen Colin, Otsego Township Clerk
12/9/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

2026 – 2030 County Recreation Plan

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Allegan will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 8, 2026, for all interested citizens to comment and discuss the proposed 2026-2030 Recreation Plan.

The hearing will take place at 10:00 AM in the Board Room, County Services Building, 3283–122nd Avenue, Allegan, Michigan. The public may also participate in the meeting/public hearing by calling 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 891 6032 7098, and Meeting Password 471420. For other options connecting to the meeting, please visit the meeting calendar website at www.allegancounty.org or contact the County Administrator's Office.

The proposed plan may be examined online at www.allegancounty.org under News Media Room or on weekdays at the Office of the Allegan County Administrator (address below), between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. All interested citizens will have the opportunity to give written and/or oral comments.

The County will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the public hearing upon one (1) week notice. Individuals requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the following in writing or by telephone:

Robert J. Sarro,
County Administrator,
3283 – 122nd Avenue,
Allegan, Michigan, 49010
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SUMMARY

Otsego Township
December 8, 2025

The regular meeting of the Otsego Township Board was held on Monday, December 8, 2025, at the Otsego Township Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Clerk Colin.

Members Present: Winn, Colin, Lunarde-Alexander, Gudith, Molls, Burns, Bumgart. Members Absent: None.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Approved minutes from the November 10th regular meeting and the November 17th special meeting. Approved bills in the amount of $126,230.43.

Approved reappointment of Jacqueline Bennett and David Goodrich to the Library Board of Trustees.

Approved appointment of Ronald Elhert to the Planning Commission.

Approved appointment of Michael Gudith to the Supervisor position, effective Jan. 1, 2026. Approved up to $1,500 for an upgrade to the kitchenette area.

Tabled action regarding the Hilton landscape issue.

Approved adoption of Resolution 2025-02.

Tabled action regarding the Website ADA update proposal.

Adjourned the meeting at 9:10 P.M.

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Award-winning Newspaper
Best Sports Column
Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025

Laskowski, Simpson lead Trailblazers past Clippers

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Senior Natalia Laskowski and junior Mylah Simpson were expected to lead the offense for the Saugatuck girls basketball team this season.

That was definitely the case when the Trailblazers hosted Martin on Friday, Dec. 12.

Laskowski scored a game-topping 20 points, while Simpson was close behind with 17 points as Saugatuck earned the 57-42 victory.

The Trailblazers improved to 2-0 following a 62-44 season-opening victory over Wyoming Potter's House on Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Martin coach Eric Zudweg, in his first season as head coach in Martin after a one-year stint as an assistant coach, was duly impressed by Laskowski and Simpson.

"Laskowski and Simpson both had phenomenal nights," Zudweg said. "They are really great players and even when you feel like you do a good job against them, they can score in so many different ways—at the rim, on perimeter, on fast breaks.

"(Saugatuck coach) Kevin (Tringali) has done a great job with their program. They are skilled, fundamental and play the right way."

Laskowski scored seven first-quarter points, including a 3-pointer. Simpson added four points in the stanza, with two of those coming at the line.

Simpson finished a 8-of-8 at the charity stripe.

Freshman Charlee Gustafson nearly had a double-double for Saugatuck, adding nine points and 15 rebounds.

Saugatuck led 14-9 after one quarter and 27-18 at halftime.

Martin used a 20-7 run in the second half to cut a 20-point deficit to 47-40 in the fourth quarter, but the Clippers would get no closer.

"As expected, Martin came in scrappy like they always do, as we could never quite pull away," Tringali said. "With that said, every time they punched us we punched them back. Our kids were resilient."

Torryn Harris paced Martin (0-2) with 15 points. Anna Jager added 12 points, followed by Aliyah DeGlopper with eight and Maggie Jager with five.

"I thought our girls played unbelievably tough from start to finish," Zugweg said. "We had a stretch in the third where we made a few made too many turnovers that led to scores the other way and put us down 20 for a moment. But our girls never gave up.

"We fell short, but I was happy with our toughness and grit, especially against a really good team in Saugatuck. We need to take care of the basketball better as a team and limit those fast break points.

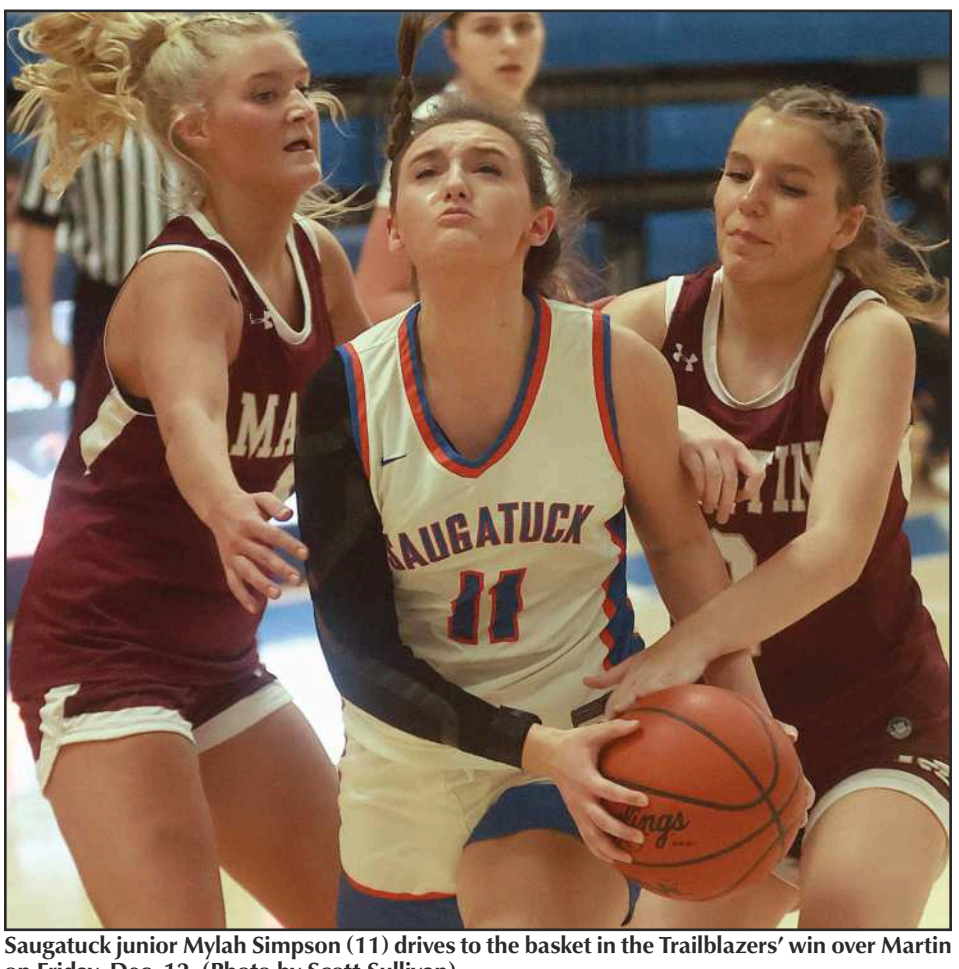
In its win over Potter's House, Saugatuck closed the game on a 17-2 run in the fourth quarter to break open what had been a close affair.

The game was knotted at 26-26 at the intermission and the Trailblazers clung to a 44-42 lead after three quarters.

"I'm so proud of our kids tonight," Tringali said. "Potter's House gave us everything they had and our kids kept their composure."

Senior Penny Grob grabbed some key rebounds. She also had 13 points, matching Laskowski for second on the team behind Simpson's game-topping 21 points.

Martin opened its season with a game against Zion Christian, with the Clippers falling 43-29.


Saugatuck junior Mylah Simpson (11) drives to the basket in the Trailblazers' win over Martin on Friday, Dec. 12. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

Harris scored nine points, followed by seven each from DeGlopper and Alley Bacon.

Martin faced quarter deficits of 9-4, 22-12 and 26-18.

Tigers claim two straight wins to even record at 2-2

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Gotham City had the Dynamic Duo of Batman and Robin.

In its SAC Lakeshore contest against visiting Watervliet on Friday, Dec. 12, the Allegan boys basketball team had a dynamic duo of its own: Bradyn Kosiorowski and Ayden Fusco.

Kosiorowski and Fusco both collected double-doubles, with Kosiorowski going for 19 points and 12 rebounds, while Fusco racked up 15 points and 21 rebounds.

That was enough to lead the Tigers to the 52-37 win, giving them two victories in a row after starting the season with a pair of losses.

Fusco also blocked five shots for Allegan.

Allegan's Brandon Thrash is fouled as he drives to the basket during the Constantine game. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

"Even though we were shorthanded for this game, that did not deter our guys' effort," first-year Allegan coach Brian Baker said. "I feel this is the most complete game we have played so far this season.

"There are things we still need to work on and improve, but the boys played hard for all four quarters."

Allegan held leads at the end of each of the first three quarters, though it could never fully separate from the Panthers.

The Tigers were up 18-13 after one quarter, 24-21 at halftime and 35-30 at the end of three quarters.

But in the final frame, Allegan used a 17-7 scoring advantage to pull away and end any hope Watervliet players had of mounting a comeback.

"Holding Watervliet to 37 points was a great showing by our defense," Baker said. "That's the lowest amount of points in a game this season that we have given up."

LJ Dial nearly gave Allegan a third double-double effort, as he finished with 12 points and nine rebounds. Colby Bishop chipped in with six points.

On Tuesday, Dec. 9, Allegan hosted Constantine and was in control throughout the game, taking an 18-2 lead after the opening stanza and winning 48-39.

"After two losses in a row to start the season, we got back on track," Baker said. "We were not as dominant in the second and third quarters compared to the first, but we still played better this game than the previous two games."

The Tigers led 25-14 at the intermission and 38-27 entering the final stanza.

"I was proud that we led the whole game," Baker said.

Fusco nearly had a triple-double in the game, going for 11 points, 12 rebounds and eight blocks. Brandon Thrash and Kosiorowski had nine points.

Nathan Martinez and Dial went for seven and six points, respectively.

Plainwell swim & dive takes second

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

GRAND RAPIDS—Plainwell boys swim & dive coach Andrea Murphy said the Grand Rapids City Sprint is one of the more fun meets her team has all season.

And the Trojans had every reason to enjoy themselves at this year's version of the event, as they placed second thanks to some really strong performances.

"This is a really fun meet for our team and to have at the beginning of the season," Murphy said. "It allows everyone to swim in some capacity."

The Trojans had one first-place finish in the 11 events, as the diving trio of Aidan Ranger, Phil Mathis and Logan Stuifenbergen racked up 194.1 points to finish nearly 60 points ahead of the runner-up trio from Caledonia.

Plainwell's top showing in the relays came in the 200 medley and 200 backstroke, as the Trojans placed second in each.

The 200 medley team of Ben Sparks, Davis Nooney, Alex Steele and Vander Summerer posted a time of 1:52.47. The 200 backstroke team of Matt Malantinski, Hiro Nguyen, Joseph Hoffman and Grady Nugent finished at 2:01.45.

Individually, Nooney led the way by placing second in the 50 breaststroke at 33.28.

Sparks was third in both the 50 backstroke (28.46) and the 50 free (23.9), while Steele was third in both the 100 IM (1:03.1) and the 50 butterfly (27.63).

"We have a large senior class that gives our team a lot of depth and good leadership that will help us out a lot this season," Murphy said. "We also have some newcomers to our team who we are excited about.

"I think everyone had a great meet considering how early it is in the season."

The Plainwell boys swim & dive team was all smiles after finishing second at the Grand Rapids City Sprint. (Photo provided)

B&C Trophy Athlete of the Week

Anna Overway
Plainwell
Girls Basketball

The Plainwell girls basketball team opened the season with three straight wins under first-year coach Elexis Buchanan. And junior Anna Overway is a big reason for that.

In the season opener against Hastings, Overway went for 16 points and 15 rebounds. She scored 18 points three days later against Paw Paw and had another double-double. She also helped the Trojans beat Lake Central in the Michiana Hoops Shootout.

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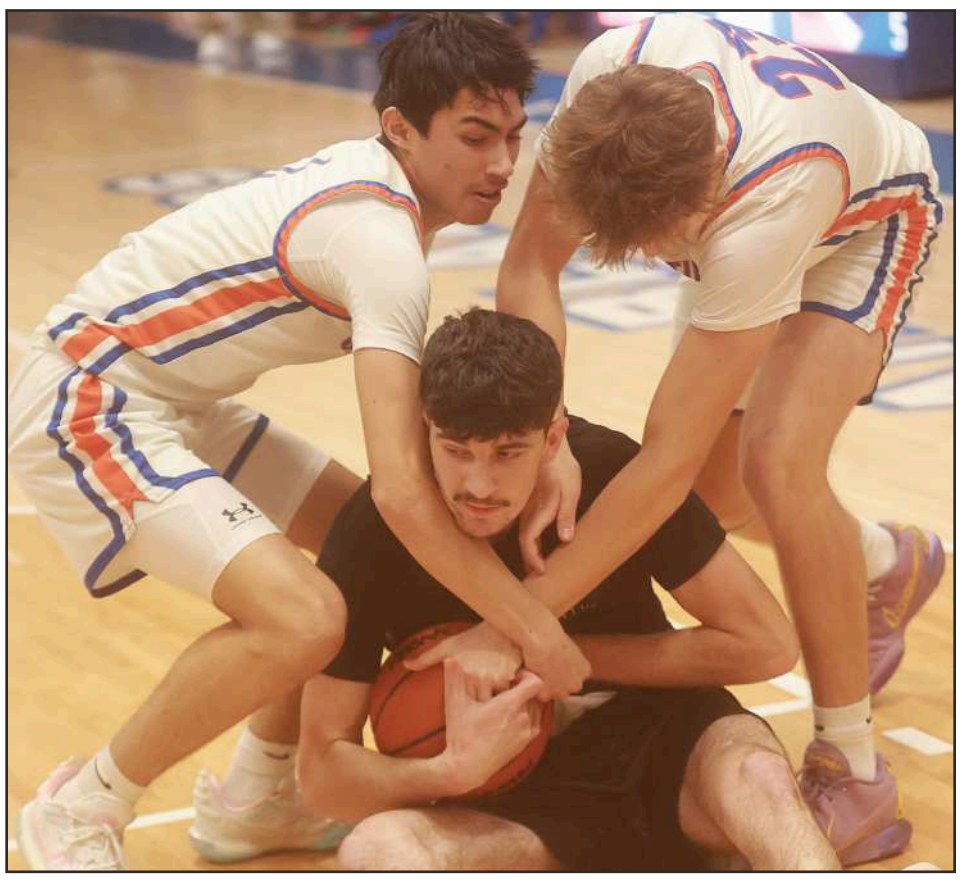
Clippers upend Trailblazers to pick up season's first win

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

SAUGATUCK—It's been said that death and taxes are the only certainties in life.

But there was another certainty when the boys basketball teams from Saugatuck and Martin met on Friday, Dec. 12: one team would secure its first victory of the season, while the other would have to wait at least one more game to collect a win.

The Clippers were the team to secure their first victory, as they used a strong defensive effort to post the 49-19 triumph over the host Trailblazers.



Players from Martin (center) and Saugatuck battle for possession of the ball during the Clippers' win. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

Martin limited Saugatuck to seven or fewer points in each quarter, including three points in each of the first two stanzas.

"This was a good overall game for us," said Martin coach Corby Callaway, whose team improved to 1-3. "Our intensity and effort were high, and we took care of the ball a little better tonight than we have been."

Callaway was particularly pleased with the way Blake Sweeting and Jackson Kennedy performed in the paint.

Sweeting tallied the double-double with 13 points and 14 rebounds. Kennedy added seven points and 10 rebounds.

The pair also combined for five steals, while Sweeting added two assists.

"Blake and Jackson were great for us inside, controlling the paint on both ends of the court," Callaway said.

Ethan Fitzpatrick led the Clippers with 15 points to go with four rebounds and three blocks, while Weson Elkins had five points, six assists and four steals.

"Weson stepped up huge to lead the team from his point guard position, with our starting point guard was out sick," Callaway said. "And Ethan hit some timely baskets to get us going."

Callaway also lauded the defensive play of Mani Smit, how had five steals.

Martin held an 8-3 lead after one quarter and was up 19-6 by the time halftime rolled around.

Saugatuck coach Ty Rock complimented Martin's performance while also offering an honest assessment of his team's play thus far.

"Martin has some size and played hard," he said. "We were not physical and haven't been a physical team yet this year.

"There are a lot of things that we as a team need to clean up in order to be competitive. There are some basic fundamentals that we lack which are making things way more difficult. The goal is to keep working on those fundamentals that have been neglected and hopefully that allows us to get better each day and improve over the course of the season."

On Tuesday, Dec. 9, Martin fell to Grand Rapids Sacred Heart 41-38.

The game had been tied 35-35 at the conclusion of the third quarter.

"We let one slip away," Callaway said. "Missed free throws and turnovers cost us big time."

Sweeting had a huge game in the loss, going for 17 points, 10 rebounds, seven steals and seven blocks.

Kennedy added eight points and nine rebounds, while Elkins chipped in with five rebounds and five assists.

The game with the Clippers was the third in a five-day span for Saugatuck. The Trailblazers fell to Holland Calvary (56-41) on Tuesday, Dec. 9, after dropping a 62-27 decision to Parchment a day earlier.

Otsego boys secure win over Edwardsburg

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—According to a famous saying, the third time's the charm.

For the Otsego boys basketball team, the third quarter was the charm when the Bulldogs hosted Wolverine Conference rival Edwardsburg on Thursday, Dec. 11.

The Bulldogs used a 13-5 scoring run in the third stanza to snap what had been a 27-27 time and ultimately collect the 49-43 win.

"This was a good, gritty conference win," Otsego coach Matt Dennis said.

Dennis was particularly pleased with his team's effort on the defensive end of the court.

"Defensively, we communicated much better and were much more active getting out to shooters, making them work for everything," he said. "This is the second game in a row that our pressure and effort showed up and made a big difference."

Leeland Longcore paced Otsego (2-2) with 22 points. That included a 10-of-10 effort from the free throw line.

Longcore also had a team-best three assists and was second on the team with four rebounds. Jacob Mercer had five rebounds.

Jack Cook added 10 points, making good on all five of his shots from the floor.

"Offensively, we did a good job attacking the paint and finishing plays," Dennis said. "Jack gave us great energy and finished well around the rim."

The win was the second in a row for Otsego following a pair of losses to open the season.

"We still things to clean up, but this was a solid team win and a step in the right direction," Dennis said.

Wayland boys beat Sparta, improve to 3-0

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

WAYLAND—Six players scored in double figures for the Wayland boys basketball team in its game with visiting Sparta on Friday, Dec. 12.

That balanced attack helped propel the Wildcats to the 60-43 win, keeping them unbeaten for the season at 3-0.

Brady Perrin and Tyler Pehrson were the only two Wayland players to reach double figures in scoring, as Perrin went for 17 and Pehrson went for 15.

Skyler Swinehart was next with seven points, followed by the trio of Elijah Warsen, Easton Williams and Brayden Calkins with six each.

The game remained fairly close for the first half, as Wayland went up 15-11 after one quarter and 30-25 at the intermission.

By the time the fourth quarter rolled around, the Wildcats' lead was up to double digits at 42-32.

Wayland girls get past host Hamilton

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

HAMILTON—Addi Sikorski and Jordan Grevenstuk scored a combined 12 first-quarter points for the Wayland girls basketball team in the Wildcats' road game with Hamilton on Friday, Dec. 12.

That was the start of a big night for each, as Sikorski scored a game-best 22 points and Grevenstuk added 15 to lead Wayland to the 58-31 win.

The big first quarter by Sikorski and Grevenstuk—who each scored six points in the frame—helped stake the Wildcats to a 15-8 lead. Wayland's lead remained seven points—27-20—at halftime before a 13-5 edge in the third quarter extended the advantage to 40-25.

Sikorski added eight points in the second quarter, six in the third and two in the fourth. Grevenstuk accounted for one of Wayland's two 3-pointers, with the other from Marissa Ainsworth.

For Hamilton, Leah Brink scored a team-best nine points. She and Kelsey Mersman—who finished with eight points—each had one 3-pointer.

Emma Slotman added seven points in the loss.

The loss evened Hamilton's record at 1-1 following an improbable season-opening win against Coopersville on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

In that game, the Hawkeyes trailed 41-29 with 1:31 left and appeared to be destined for the loss.

But Hamilton rallied to score the game's final 13 points to secure the 42-41 win in comeback fashion.

Slotman spearheaded the rally, scoring the first 11 points during that game-ending run. That point total included two 3-pointers, an and-one and two other free throws.

Brink tied the score at 41-41 and put Hamilton up 42-41 on a pair of free throws with 6.7 seconds remaining.

Slotman finished with 15 points. Brink and Brooke Petroelje added 13 points each.

Sarah Brink had the only other point for Hamilton as she sank a fourth-quarter free throw.

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Plainwell starts season with three straight victories

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

PLAINWELL—It was a case of David vs. Goliath when the girls basketball team from Plainwell hosted Indiana's Lake Central in the Michigana Hoops Shootout on Saturday, Dec. 13.

And just like in the original version of the story, David came out on top.

Plainwell (approximate enrollment of 800) bested Lake Central (approximate enrollment of 3,000) 48-37 to improve to 3-0 under first-year coach Elexis Buchanan.

Kaylee VanAtter and Alyssa Weldon earned co-MVP honors for leading the Trojans with 17 and 15 respective points.

Lake Central fell to 7-5.

"Lake Central is already so many games ahead of us in terms of games played, and they're also equipped with obvious height advantages, Buchanan said. "And while we did start off a bit rocky, we have been working on being fearless and utilizing every member of this team."

Plainwell fell behind 10-1 to start the game, but rallied to take a 24-14 lead at halftime thanks to an 18-4 edge in the second quarter.

Lake Central managed to cut the deficit to a single point at 32-31 entering the final stanza, but Plainwell wouldn't be denied.

"I think after tonight's win the girls are really starting to buy in and trust the process," Buchanan said. "They are realizing that all the work we've put in in the offseason and how hard we work during practice is for a reason.

"Their eyes are starting to light up, and I can see the new love they are finding for the game. Tonight was another test for us, and it wasn't pretty at all, but we showed a lot of heart and ended up with a win."

The Lake Central game capped a busy first week for the Trojans.

Plainwell bested Paw Paw 62-35 in the Wolverine Conference opener on Friday, Dec. 12, after beating Hastings 58-29 in the season opener on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

In the Paw Paw game, Anna Overway scored 18 points, while Tessie Kiel, Weldon and Alayana Ranney joined her in double figures with 13, 12 and 10 points, respectively.

"Everyone collectively worked extremely well together under a tough pressure put on by Paw Paw," Buchanan said. "We're getting in the groove of sharing the ball and seeing the open person on offense and never letting up on defense. We obviously still have some work to do, but we are still very early in the season.

"One thing that sets this group apart for me is the girls' curiosity and willingness to learn. I think just with having that mindset, it'll catapult us into a world of unlimited possibilities."

Plainwell led 16-7 after one quarter and 30-15 at halftime.

Overway was also the leading scorer against Hastings, as she finished with 16 points. She also had 15 rebounds.

"A good majority of her points came from the paint," Buchanan said of Overway. "She really cleans up well around the rim and does a good job of hustling and getting those 50-50 balls. Both will help moving forward in the season."

Weldon and Kiel both finished the night with 11 points.

"We had some impactful minutes from the rest of the team as well, and the girls enjoyed themselves overall," Buchanan said.

"Although I am very happy with tonight's outcome and how well the girls played together, we still had a few mental lapses on defense. We also struggled a bit from the free throw line (12-of-24). But overall, I truly believe that progress is a process and we're well on our way to building something great."

Plainwell's Alyssa Weldon drives to the basket in the win over Paw Paw. (Photo provided by Herbert Todd)

Allegan girls come up just short in season opener

The Allegan girls basketball team fell to Watervliet in its opening game of the season. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

It was a game of two halves for the Allegan girls basketball team in its season-opening contest against visiting Watervliet on Friday, Dec. 12.

The Tigers started strong, taking a 20-12 lead into halftime.

But foul trouble plagued Allegan in the second half and the Panthers took advantage, holding a 25-14 scoring edge to claim the 37-34 victory.

The game was the first for the Tigers under the leadership of veteran high school hoops coach Ernie Ramirez.

"I'm very proud of the girls as we only have two returning varsity players, a new system and new terminology and still almost got the win," Ramirez said. "I have high hopes for this team even in the loss."

Freshman Camdyn Drozd shined for the Tigers.

In her first varsity game, Drozd tallied a team-best 10 points and collected nine rebounds to finish one rebound shy of a double-double.

"Camdyn did a great job for us," Ramirez said.

Senior Jadyn VandenAkker was one of three players who got in foul trouble for the Tigers and was forced to the bench for much of the third and fourth quarters.

She finished with nine points on just seven shots in 21 minutes of action.

"In the second half with three key players in fouls trouble, one starter out to injury and press break on the opposite side of the court, the girls were a little disoriented with unfamiliar lineups and lack of offense identity," Ramirez said.

Ellie Ziemelis added seven points in the losing cause.

Hamilton's Block picks up 100th win

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

WILLIAMSTON—Hamilton senior wrestling Tyler Block reached a career milestone at the Williamston Duals on Saturday, Dec. 13.

Going 4-1 for the day, Block locked up the 100th victory of his career.

"Tyler has had an incredible past three seasons at Hamilton," Hamilton coach Trenton Holyfield said. "He looks to add many more wins this season and get on the podium at the state tournament.

As a team, the Hawkeyes went 2-3 for the day, suffering losses to Birch Run (47-35), Williamston (50-24) and Stevensville-Lakeshore (46-33) before earning wins over Vicksburg (65-18) and Berkley (54-12).

Chase Morrison and Bryce Morrison each went a perfect 5-0 for Hamilton. Weston Geerlings, Broden Van Wieren and Shawn Lawson joined Block at 4-1.

The Hamilton girls wrestling team, meanwhile, was at the Kent County Classic the same day and finished 11th out of 30 teams.

Korra Kapenga led the Hawkeyes, going 4-0 at 125 pounds to place first out of 17 wrestlers. Ana Ruggles went 3-1 at 130 to place fifth out of 15 wrestlers, while Mykayla Provance was 2-2 at 120 to place fourth out of 16 wrestlers.

Tyler Block (center) earned the 100th win of his career for Hamilton. (Photo provided)

Otsego girls roll to pair of victories

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—So far, so good for the Otsego girls basketball team.

After opening the season with a 64-20 road win over Harper Creek on Tuesday, Dec. 9, the Bulldogs cruised to the 70-49 victory over visiting Edwardsburg to open Wolverine Conference play on Thursday, Dec. 11.

Against the Eddies, Otsego jumped out to a quick 13-3 lead, forcing Edwardsburg to call a timeout early in the game.

By halftime, the Bulldogs led 37-16.

"Once again, our pressure and pace were pretty devastating for Edwardsburg," Otsego coach Tony Koshar said. "I love the way we are running the floor and getting to spots to convert easy offense."

Brooke Smalldon had a monster effort in the win, scoring 23 points and snagging 10 rebounds for her first double-double of the season. She added a team-best four assists along with four steals, which matched Peyton Johnson for second on the team behind Madden Fitzpatrick with five.

Fitzpatrick added nine rebounds and eight points, while Audrey Lingbeek had nine points, three rebounds and three assists.

"Audrey and Madden really stuffed the stat sheet, while Olivia Hildebrand and Peyton Johnson set the tone for us defensively while also doing a great job of handling the ball as we had single digit turnovers," Koshar said.

Koshar also praised Kendall Hough, who scored her first varsity points, finishing with five. Another highlight was Sophomore Kendall Hough scoring her first varsity points.

In the Harper Creek game, Otsego led 16-4 after one quarter and didn't allowed just 10 points in each half.

"It was a good start to the season, but definitely had some of the first game mistakes that we can clean up," Koshar said. "Our pressure really forced Harper into a ton of turnovers in the first half but we weren't very efficient in converting those too points and led 27-10 at the half."

Otsego nearly matched that point total in the third quarter, outscoring Harper Creek 24-10 to push its lead to 51-20.

"After a discussion at halftime concerning our offense, we came out in the third quarter and put the game away," Koshar said.

Smalldon had 23 and Fitzpatrick scored 12 to go with a team-best seven rebounds.

"Along with our normal scorers, we had three girls score their first varsity points in Madeline Goodwin, Emma Engbers and Hallie Prough, so that was a highlight," Koshar said.

Emma Engbers and Prough each scored four points, while Goodwin scored two.

Fennville girls start season by going 1-1 in first two games

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

FENNVILLE—After opening the season with a 48-32 home win against Comstock on Tuesday, Dec. 9, the Fennville girls basketball team hoped up improve to 2-0 when it hosted Bridgman on Friday, Dec. 12.

Unfortunately, the Bees had different ideas.

Bridgman used an 17-12 edge in the fourth quarter to snap what had been a 31-31 deadlock at the end of three quarters and secure the 48-43 win at the Blackhawks' expense.

The game was tied at 7-7 after one quarter and Fennville trailed 19-18 at halftime before pulling even heading to the final stanza.

Fennville's Amiyah Johnson led all scorers with 22 points, including four 3-pointers. Ceeley Howard had 11 points—six of those on two triples—while Veda Steward added six points and seven rebounds.

Adriana Hicks led Fennville with nine rebounds.

In the win over Comstock, Howard and Johnson combined for 31 points.

Howard led the charge with 17 points to go with five assists. Johnson had 14 points.

Fennville raced out to a 13-7 lead at the end of the first stanza and pushed that advantage to 27-10 at the intermission.

Leslie Hernandez contributed six points to the win, while Steward had eight rebounds.

Camp Kidwell prepares for winter camp

By Gari Voss

After taking a very quick breather from Festival of Trees with decorating, auctioning, and delivering trees, wreaths and Christmas décor, the Camp Kidwell staff is gearing up to offer Winter Camp as a Holiday Break activity to ring in New Year 2026.

The staff at Camp Kidwell strive to teach young people skills for life in a safe, fun, and loving environment. Whether campers choose to stay overnight or only participate during the day, Winter Camp is a an ultimate experience to spend time playing in the snow, hanging out with old friends or making new friends, plus trying many fun camp activities.

Winter Overnight Camp begins at 2pm on Monday, December 29, 2025, and culminates on Thursday, January 1, 2026, at 2pm. In between, campers from ages 7-14 spend the night at camp in heated cabins and enjoy outdoor and indoor camp activities. Cabin mates can be requested.

Those not sure about staying the night can attend **Winter Day Camp** and participate in the same activities as the Overnight campers, but their schedule varies a bit. Day campers join on December 30th and 31st, from 9am to 6pm and on January 1st, from 9am to 2pm. Parents or caregivers drop off and pick up the campers each day.

Camp Kidwell Winter Camp registration is now open! As in past years, the event will be a blast to end 2025 and kick off 2026! Dec. 29 to Jan. 1 will give campers an opportunity to enjoy friends and have some fun during Christmas Break. Check https://www.campkidwell.org/ **for more information.**

Camp Director KJ Kelly shared, "Campers will sleep in heated cabins with at least 2 staff members and have opportunities to go sledding, play outside and inside games, build snow forts, make cookies, enjoy hot chocolate, nestle around the campfire, do some singing, take nature walks, compete in video games, and more. The big event is the New Year's Eve Party!"

Whether the attendees are seasoned campers or exploring it for the first time, there will be adventures and surprises. Young people are encouraged to take time during winter break from school to enjoy playing in the snow, hanging out with friends, playing video games on the big screen, and celebrating New Year's Eve with an exclusive Camp Kidwell Party!

The registration fee will cover all activities, meals, a T-shirt, and digital photo. Parents can even send their camper emails that will be delivered each day.

"We hope you will join us for our annual Winter Camp! We offer both day and overnight camp for kiddos 7-14 years old." The staff reiterated, "We have so much fun sledding, playing board games and cards, trying new team building activities, baking, making new friends, enjoying a special New Years Eve Party and so much more. We would love for you to join the fun!"

Campers can register, apply for scholarships, and get early registration or multiple family member discounts. For additional information, contact Camp Kidwell at 260 521-3559 or go to https://www.campkidwell.org/.

Faces in the Crowd

By G C Stoppel

The tradition of sending Christmas cards began in the 1840s when the British Post Office invented the postage stamp. Suddenly they needed a reason for people to use them to stay in business. The answer was the Christmas greeting card. Although we send fewer than in the past, the tradition continues.

This week's question: What are your best or worst Christmas card memories?

-Woman at a gas station on M-89: "That's a really weird question. I don't know. I get them; I send them; they're a nuisance. And expensive!"

-Man at the next pump: "She's right. They're an expensive nuisance. Me and my wife used to send out a hundred or so. Now, we're down to half that number and it's still an expensive nuisance."

-Woman near the Mexican restaurant in Fennville: "I remember the first year I got a card. I was five, and I felt so grown up. I made Mama save it for me, but I guess it's gone by now. It was from Aunt Leona."

-Man near the Fennville hardware store; Doubled-up laughing, he said, "I was junior high and I wanted to make some big money. BIG money. Well, I figured out since people collected stamps I'd get everyone to give me their envelopes and stamps. Back then, people sent cards by the hundred, so I got plenty - family, friends, even the bank. I was going to be rich. It didn't work out because there wasn't a market for used three cent stamps. I looked on-line the other day, and they're still not worth much."

-Middle aged couple; man, same location: "The first time my girlfriend sent me a card. We still give each other a card, only now she's, my wife." Woman: "After Christmas I put them in a special shoebox and save them. They're special to me." Man: "And me."

-Woman near the Fennville grocery store: "I don't know. They're just another thing to get done in December. And I don't get help from my family, either."

-Man near the Allegan Post Office: "See these? More Christmas cards. Between the cost of the card and the stamp, they set me back nearly a buck a piece. It's crazy. But we wouldn't have it any other way. Gotta stay in touch with people or you get forgotten."

-Woman near Sassy Olive: Big smile: "My favorites are the long letters with medical news. Some people give way too much information they ought to keep to themselves. They're hoot. But I sort of enjoy it unless it is too gross."

-Older woman near the florist shop in Allegan: "I guess they're pretty old fashioned, but I do it because I stay in touch with people. It's a tradition."

-Woman with her. "Well, I love getting cards. It lets me know I'm not forgotten or people think I'm dead or something like that. What I really like is that our church makes sure everyone in a couple of nursing homes gets at least one card."

The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise

Service Directory Guide

Find the Services and Businesses You Need!

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thirdcoastgaragedoor@gmail.com
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Cell-734-777-5163
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Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

Dec. 18, 1950

Otsego tops Allegan for first time in eight years: For the first time in eight years, an Otsego basketball squad defeated an Allegan team.

The Bulldogs were red hot in their 55-48 victory on their home floor Tuesday night.

It was Allegan's second straight loss after a brilliant start to this season.

Otsego was on fire from the first and they kept it up for one dazzling quarter. Big 6-foot, 4-inch Jack Weber, Otsego's center, ran up 14 points in that frame. Midway through the first period, Otsego had Allegan down 15-1. At the end of the frame, the Bulldogs were leading 24-7.

Allegan partially regained its poise in the second stanza. The Tigers outscored Otsego in this period—in fact in the rest of the game—but that first quarter lead was too much.

Dec. 18, 1975

Christmas brightens for 525 families: From the looks of things in the county services center near Dumond Lake, Santa Claus has opened a southern workshop.

Presents, canned goods, toys, clothes and stuffed animals by the score line the walls and cover the floor of the social services spare room, a room designated the North Pole by Volunteer Services workers who are collecting the donated items to give to families this Christmas who might not otherwise have a bountiful holiday.

Coordinators Linda Wilson and Nancy Johnson said they are "absolutely amazed" at the response county residents have made to the program, a program which last year provided similar material for more than 1,600 residents of Allegan County.

Volunteer Services is acting as a clearinghouse for families who, according to Mrs. Wilson, "would have a bleak Christmas without the help of others."

Dec. 21, 2000

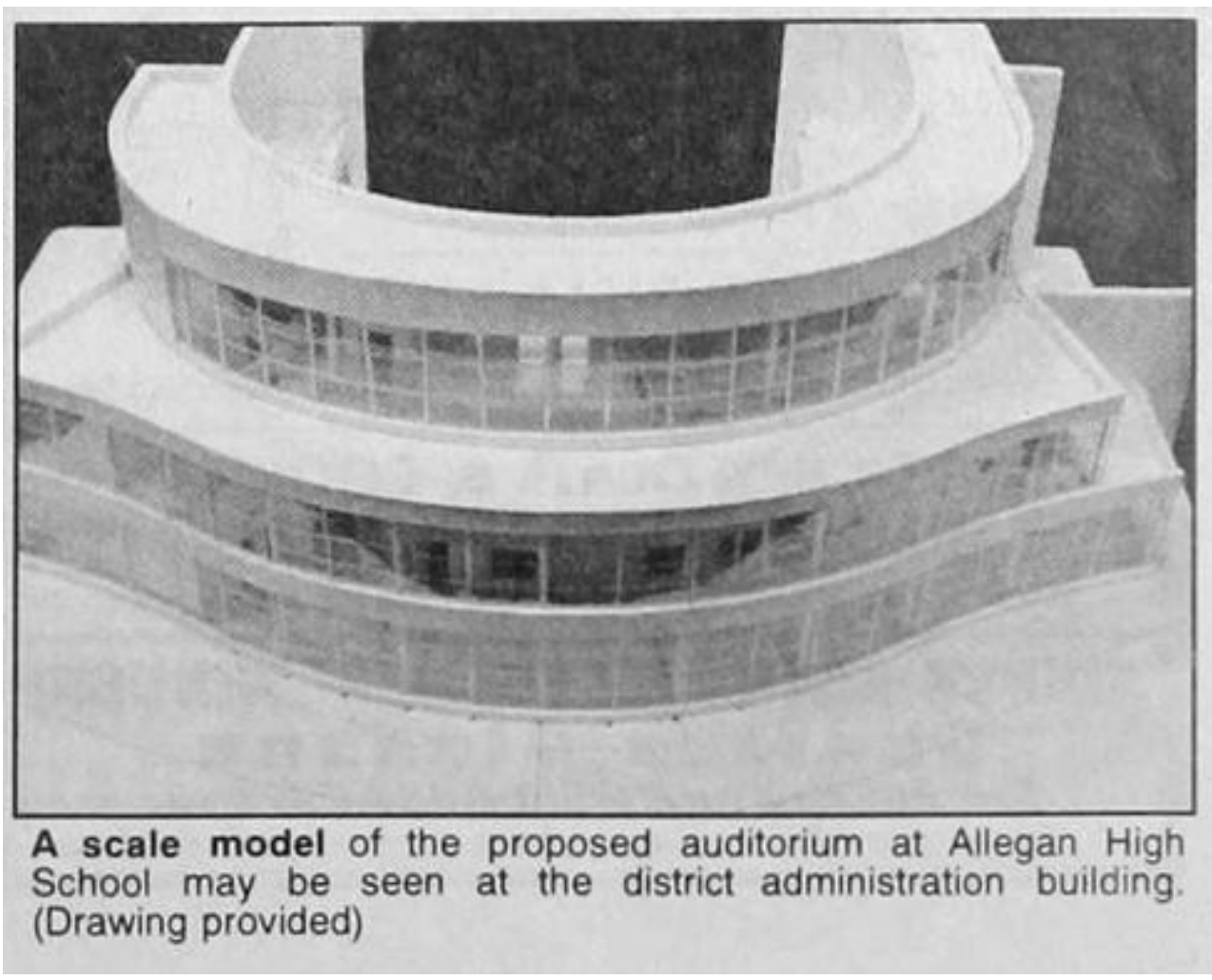
School reviews final plan for pool and auditorium: Bad weather foiled a plan of Allegan Public Schools to adopt final architectural drawings for an auditorium and pool addition to the high school Monday, Dec. 11. School administrators called TMP Architecture in Detroit that morning, telling architects not to brave a blizzard to bring drawings to a regular school board meeting scheduled for that evening.

The architects braved less-foul weather to appear at a make-up board meeting two days later. They returned to Detroit with instructions to make some minor, technical changes in the plans.

New drawings will likely come before the board in January for adoption.

Assistant superintendent Kevin Harness said the drawings are now essentially complete.

Voters approved a $17.9 million bond issue in June 2000 for the pool and auditorium addition. With interest, the project will have an $18.9 million budget. The addition will be built at the back (west) end of the high school. The district spent more than $500,000 to buy land from the Harlans and the Hiscocks along 115th Avenue. Those properties will be turned into a new entry drive to the back parking lot.



A scale model of the proposed auditorium at Allegan High School may be seen at the district administration building. (Drawing provided)

Dec. 17, 2020

Zak, Alivia TerMeer earn All-American honors in soccer: What could possibly be better than having an All-American in the family?

Having two All-Americans in the family, of course.

Such was the case for the TerMeer clan in Plainwell.

Siblings and Plainwell High School graduates Zak and Alivia TerMeer both recently received word that they had garnered All-American honors from the National Christian College Athletic Association for their performance on the soccer field at Grace Christian University.

Grace competes at the NCCAA Division II level.

Zak was named First Team All-American for his redshirt sophomore season, while Alivia was named Second Team All-American for her freshman campaign.

Parents Tom and Erin TerMeer were understandably proud of their children's accomplishments.

"When we found out that both of them made All-American, it was somewhat of a surprise, especially since we didn't think either of them would be playing this fall (due to COVID)," Tom TerMeer said. "But what makes us most proud is that both of them never lost focus even with the constant schedule changes and uncertainty if they could finish their season.

"We cannot thank the NCCAA and the Grace Christian athletic department enough for having the season for all of the athletes."

Zak admitted that the uncertainty surrounding COVID resulted in some unique challenges.

"The hardest part this year with COVID-19 was the fact that we might not have a season at all and having to put in the work all summer long to prepare for the season that might not happen," he said. "The uncertainty of the season being stopped was on everyone's mind and we had to play every game like it would have been our last and the team stepped up to do that."

Zak definitely made the most out of his opportunity to play this season, scoring six goals in 12 games.

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk

Department of Social Services volunteer services workers, from left, Nancy Johnson, Dealie Williams, and Linda Wilson work to organize what may be only the beginning of an avalanche of donations from generous county residents. The items will be used by volunteer services to brighten the Christmasses of more than 500 county families who otherwise might have a bleak holiday.

—News & Gazette photo

Deaths

Oct. 11, 2025

TAMMY MICHELLE BLANCHARD, 48, Gun Plain Twp.

Nov. 6, 2025

ROGER VANDERHEIDE, 82, Leighton Twp.

Nov. 10, 2025

WALTER G LINDSTROM, 68, Saugatuck

Nov. 24, 2025

DONALD LEE ZUDWEG, 76, Plainwell

Nov. 26, 2025

MARTHA JOAN ALBRECHT, 89, Plainwell

Nov. 27, 2025

KATHY JEAN SMITH, 71, Allegan

MICHAEL KNOBLOCH, 71, Watson TWp.

Nov. 28, 2025

JUDY CAROLYN STARK, 85, Allegan Twp.

Nov. 30, 2025

MONNA LEE COVAULT, 93, Otsego

RICHARD DALE HERBIG, 78, Heath Twp.

Dec. 1, 2025

CHARLES JAY LYNEMA, 67, Plainwell

STEVEN LOUIS TUCKER, 52, Otsego

Dec. 2, 2025

TAMMY SUE NETHERY, 53, Wayland

Dec. 4, 2025

AUDREY ANN WIERDA, 91, Holland

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between Dec. 1 and Dec. 9:

JACOB SCOTT EDEMA, Shelbyville, and **SPENCER JO DZIERWA**, Shelbyville

WESLEY JON POTTER, Dorr, and **JENNIFER MARIE DISSMORE**, Dorr

VERNON LEE WRIGHT, Pullman, and **KATRINA LYNN WRIGHT**, Pullman

COREY DYLAN VICKERY, Otsego, and **SYNDEY JEAN TURNER**, Otsego

LYDIA GRACE LECLAIRE, Allegan, and **CAMERON SCOTT FRIESEMA**, Allegan

MARK ALAN CHRISTMAN, Pullman, and **WENDY SUE VANDENBERG**, Pullman

Sudoku

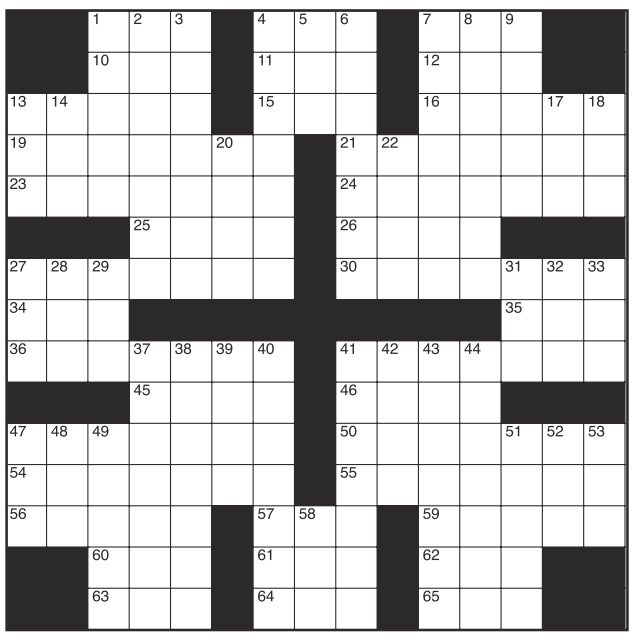
Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

	4					6		
7					1			
		8						4
				3		9	6	
1				6				
8				7	9	3	4	
	6					8		9
2							3	
		4			2	5		

(See Solution Page B7)

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS

1. American automotive titan
4. Tire term
7. Two-year-old sheep
10. Indigenous people of Thailand
11. Anti-Soviet Cold War group
12. Actress de Armas
13. Not moving
15. Cool!
16. Plants of the arum family
19. Connected with touch
21. Pen stain
23. Monetary units
24. School kids' art project
25. Early Bell Canada executive
26. Sword
27. Hates
30. Fixed in one place
34. Pie _ __ mode
35. Moved swiftly on foot
36. Carrier on vehicle
41. A path to get through
45. 'Rule, Britannia' composer
46. Spiritual leader
47. Flowing
50. Respectful compliments
54. Cure
55. Soft, lightweight fabric
56. Building material
57. Japanese delicacy
59. A way to cause to be swollen
60. One and only
61. You might get one in summer
62. Wreath
63. Thus far
64. They __
65. Employee reference number

CLUES DOWN

1. Policemen (French)
2. Toy dog
3. Intestinal condition
4. Muscular weaknesses
5. Helps little firms
6. Alphabetical lists
7. Takes down
8. Facilitates
9. Ethnic people of Ethiopia
13. Engine additive
14. Explorers group
17. Written account
18. Consumed
20. Opposite of first
22. No (slang)
27. Government lawyers
28. NY Giants great
29. Small amount
31. A way to save for your future
32. Fall behind
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Head pain
38. Wildly popular sport
39. 'Princess Diaries' actress Hathaway
40. Boat race
41. About fish
42. Nursemaid
43. Able to be marketed
44. Not as large
47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
48. Paddle
49. Oneness
51. Bitter chemical
52. Not around
53. Very fast airplane
58. Main tributary of the Rhine

■ see **Solution**, Page B7

Public Notices

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Ryan Beyer and Erin Beyer, husband and wife, whose address is 3616 146th Avenue, Hamilton, Michigan 49419, as original Mortgagors, to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC, being a mortgage dated March 10, 2015, and recorded on March 24, 2015 in Liber 3912 Page 40, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated December 14, 2021 and recorded on December 14, 2021 in Liber 4708 Page 506, Allegan County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX AND 35/100 DOLLARS ($138,756.35). Said premises are situated in the Township of Overisel, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: THAT PART OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4, SECTION 12, TOWN 4 NORTH, RANGE 14 WEST, OVERISEL TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN DESCRIBED AS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION, THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 20' 50" WEST, 506.45 FEET ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 05 14" EAST 300.0 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST 148.0 FEET OF SAID EAST 1/2, OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4, THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 20' 50" EAST 505.99 FEET, THENCE NORTH 0 DEGREES 00' WEST 300.0 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. Street Address: 3616 146th Avenue, Hamilton, Michigan 49419 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: November 27, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602. Telephone: (312) 541-9710 File No.: MI 25 6448
(11-27)(12-18)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Ryan Decker a married man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC

Date of Mortgage: January 4, 2019

Date of Mortgage Recording: February 8, 2019

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $156,544.12

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Plainwell, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 77 in Orchard Acres No. 2, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 11 of plats, Page 71,

Allegan County Records.

Common street address (if any): 680 Glenview Cir, Plainwell, MI 49080-1365

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: November 27, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1578351

(11-27)(12-18)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Victoria Buell, a single woman

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Center LLC

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None

Date of Mortgage: August 26, 2015

Date of Mortgage Recording: September 16, 2015

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $87,360.50

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Gunplain, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 17 of Gainder and Morrison Assessor's Plat, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Liber 11 of Plats, Page 3, Allegan County Records.

Common street address (if any): 972 110th Ave, Plainwell, MI 49080-9515

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

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This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: November 27, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1578205

(11-27)(12-18)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Chad Losiewski

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation

Date of Mortgage: October 7, 2022

Date of Mortgage Recording: October 17, 2022

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $154,106.59

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Gunplain, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing on the South line of Section 15, at a point 400 feet East of the Southwest corner of said Section 15 as point of beginning; thence East on said Section line, 104 feet; thence Northwesterly to the center of Gun Marsh Road at a point 504 feet Northeasterly of the Southwest corner of said Section; thence Southwesterly along the center of said road 104 feet; thence Southeasterly to point of beginning, Section 15, Town 1 North, Range 11 West, Gun Plain Township, Allegan County, Michigan.

Common street address (if any): 605 Marsh Rd, Plainwell, MI 49080-9541

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: December 4, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1579039

(12-04)(12-25)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Jamison M Berg, An Unmarried Man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Top Flite Financial, Inc., its successors and assigns. Foreclosing Assignee: Penny-Mac Loan Services, LLC Date of Mortgage: October 13, 2021 Date of Mortgage Recording: October 19, 2021 Amount claimed due on mortgage on the date of notice: $227,464.82 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: Fifty feet in width off the East side of Lot 104, Original Plat of the Village (Now City) of Allegan, according to the recorded plat thereof. Commonly Known as: 347 Cutler St., Allegan, MI 49010 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later; or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Purchaser: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee for any reason. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest, and the purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. This notice is from a debt collector. Date of notice: 12/04/2025 Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 251 Diversion Street, Rochester, MI 48307 248-853-4400 321434
(12-04)(12-25)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on JANUARY 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Adam Flagg and Amanda Flagg, to Figure Lending LLC, Mortgagee, dated July 13, 2024 and recorded July 22, 2024 in Liber 4959, Page 244 Allegan County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by FIGRE Trust 2024-HE6, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Twenty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-One and 13/100 Dollars ($24,761.13).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on JANUARY 15, 2026.

Said premises are located in the Township of Otsego, Allegan County Michigan, and are described as:

Commencing on the center line of River Road 740. 9 feet East of the East eighth line, thence South 74 degrees East 66 feet, thence South 132 feet, thence North 74 degrees West 66 feet, thence North 132 feet to the beginning, being in Section 23, Town 1 North, Range 12 West.

1416 106th Ave, Otsego, Michigan 49078

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: December 11, 2025

File No. 25-015345

Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC

Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084

Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(12-11)(01-01)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on JANUARY 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Thomas Stille, an unmarried man, and Kathryn Garcia, an unmarried woman, joint tenancy with right of survivorship, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Hometown Lenders Inc., Mortgagee, dated September 13, 2022 and recorded September 21, 2022 in Liber 4799, Page 950 Allegan County Records, Michigan, and Affidavit Affecting Realty recorded October 23, 2025 in Liber 5080, Page 194 Allegan County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by DATA MORTGAGE INC., DBA ESSEX MORTGAGE, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Three Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Seven and 43/100 Dollars ($322,867.43).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on JANUARY 15, 2026.

Said premises are located in the Township of Salem, Allegan County Michigan, and are described as:

Part of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 7, Town 4 North, Range 13 West, Salem Township, Allegan County, Michigan, and being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Northwest corner of said section 7; thence North 90 degrees 0 minutes 0 seconds East, along the North line of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 7, a distance of 1051.20 feet to the point of beginning of the parcel of land herein described; thence continue North 90 degrees 0 minutes 0 seconds East, along the North line of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 7, a distance of 397.70 feet; thence South 0 degrees 46 minutes 14 seconds East, a distance of 199.92 feet; thence South 90 degrees 0 minutes 0 seconds West, parallel with the North line of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 7, a distance of 191.00 feet; thence North 01 degrees 49 minutes 50 seconds West, parallel with the East line of the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 7, a distance of 39.25 feet; thence South 90 degrees 0 minutes 0 seconds West, parallel with the North line of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 7, a distance of 170.00 feet; thence North 01 degrees 49 minutes 50 seconds West, parallel with the East line of the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 7, a distance of 50.00 feet; thence South 90 degrees 0 minutes 0 seconds West, parallel with the North line of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 7, a distance of 33.00 feet; thence North 01 degrees 49 minutes 50 seconds West, parallel with the East line of the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 7, a distance of 110.75 feet to the point of beginning, Allegan County Records.

3556 146th Ave, Zeeland, Michigan 49464

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: December 11, 2025

File No. 25-011186

Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC

Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084

Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(12-11)(01-01)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Lewis James Folk, a widower

Original Mortgagee: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Flickinger Service LLC

Date of Mortgage: June 17, 2011

Date of Mortgage Recording: June 24, 2011

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $208,719.16

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: South 417 2/10 feet of East 208 7/10 feet of West 417 4/10 feet of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 26, Town 1 North, Range 12 West

Common street address (if any): 1491 102nd Ave, Plainwell, MI 49080-9703

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: December 11, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1579674

(12-11)(01-01)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Rickey L. Marcus Jr., Married Man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Union Home Mortgage Corp., its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated June 29, 2016, and recorded on August 9, 2016, in Liber 4054, Page 442, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated January 31, 2023 and recorded January 31, 2023 in Liber 4833, Page 151, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen and 81/100 ($136,214.81) including interest at the rate of 3.37500% per annum.* Said premises are situated in the Township of Leighton, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: That part of the South 200.00 feet of the West 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4; Section 18, Town 4 North, Range 11 West, lying West of a line described as: Beginning on the South Section line 118.75 feet East of the Southwest corner of the West 20 acres of the West 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4; Thence North perpendicular to said South Section line to the North line of the South 200.00 feet of the said West 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4. Commonly known as: 1065 142ND AVE, WAYLAND, MI 49348 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. *Modified by a loan modification dated October 22, 2021 and recorded November 4, 2021 at Liber 4692, Page 320, Allegan County Records. Dated: December 11, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Nationstar Mortgage LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00505-2
(12-11)(01-01)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DEFAULT
REQUEST AND ENTRY
CASE NO. 25-18574-CH and
JUDGE Hon. David A. Thompson
Court address 415 Third Street, Manistes, MI 49660
Court telephone no 231-723-666
Plaintiff name(s), address(es), and telephone nos).
PHH Mortgage Corporation
c/o Plainfiff's Attorney
Plaintiff's attorney, bar no., address, and telephone no.
SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN P.C.
Ronald Glaser (P46986)
23938 Ressarch Drive, Suite 300
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
248.539.7400
v
Defendant name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s)
Any and All Unknown Heirs, Devisees and Assignees of Richard Najdowski
Party in default:: Any and All Unknown Heirs, Devisees and Assignees of Richard Najdowskl
REQUEST
1. I request the clerk to enter the default of party named above

(Continued on Page B7)

Public Notices

Continued from Page B6

for failure fo plead or otherwise defend as provided by law.

2. The defaulted party is not an infant or incompetent person.

3. The defaulted party is not in the military service.

4, This request is made on my personal knowledge and, if swom as a witness, | can testify completely to the facts in this request.

I declare under the penalties of perjury that this request has been examined by me and that its contents are true to the best of my information,knowledge, and belief.

11-11-25

DEFAULT ENTRY |

NOTE: Default can be entered by a district court Clerk without the request of a party.

The default of the party named above for failure to plead or otherwise defend is entered.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

| served a copy of this default request and entry on the parties or their attorneys by first -class mail addressed to their last -known addresses as defined by MCR 2.107(C)(3). | declare under the penalties of petjury that this cefiificate of mailing has been examined by me and that its contents are true to the best of my Information, knowledge and belief.

12-8-25

12-11 12-25

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate & Trust
Estate and Trust of Thomas Robert Stockdale

Date of Birth: October 4, 1946

NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, Thomas Robert Stockdale , who lived at 1978 20th Street, Allegan, Michigan died October 2, 2025

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Estate of Thomas Robert Stockdale and/or the inter Vivos Living Trust of Thomas Robert Stockdale, will be forever barred unless presented to:

Shawn R. Stockdale, Trustee of the Inter Vivos Living Trust of Thomas Robert Stockdale dated July 24, 2019, and/or Shawn R. Stockdale, nominated Personal Representative of the Estate of Thomas Robert Stockdale, c/o Christopher J. LaLonde, Esq., Veritas Law Group at: 107 W. Michigan Avenue Ste. 500 Kalamazoo, MI 49007 and the Trustee within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

12/12/2025

Veritas Law Group
Christopher J. Lalonde P68317
Attorney's Address:
107 W. Michigan Avenue, Suite 500
Kalamazoo, MI 49007 (269) 270-3500

Personal Representative and Trustee's Name:
Shawn R. Stockdale, Trustee of the Inter Vivos Living Trust of Thomas Robert Stockdale dated July 24, 2019, and/or Shawn R. Stockdale, nominated Personal Representative of the Estate of Thomas Robert Stockdale, c/o Christopher J. Lalonde, Esq., Veritas Law Group at:
Trustee's Address:
107 W. Michigan Avenue, Suite 500
Kalamazoo, MI 49007 (269) 270-3500

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE 48TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT FOR ALLEGAN COUNTY
File No. 25-71049-CZ
Hon. Matthew Antkoviak
Martin Reed
Plaintiff,
V
Frank F. Manshaem & Betty J. Manshaem,
& ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISES & ASSIGNS.
Defendants,
Martin Reed (P26028)
138 Hubbard St.
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-8954
NOTICE OF DEFAULT JUDGEMENT ENTRY
TO: Frank F. Manshaem & Betty J. Manshaem, & ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES & ASSIGNS

Please be advised that on Monday, December 8th, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., Hon. Matthew Antkoviak, in the Circuit Court of Allegan County, located at 113 Chestnut St., Allegan, MI 49010 entered a Default Judgement against the defendants.

Martin Reed
Attorney at Law
138 Hubbard St.
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-8954

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9am, on Thursday, January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The foreclosure sale is pursuant to the terms and conditions of a Mortgage made by MOLLY MICHAEL and JAMES HATTEY, Mortgagors, to REI BlueKey, LLC, Mortgagee, dated July 19, 2024, and recorded July 30, 2024, in Liber 4961, Page 196, of Allegan County Records, Michigan, which mortgage was assigned to Cassidy Investment Group, LLC pursuant to a recorded assignment, and on which mortgage there is claimed to be due as of the date of this notice $70,645.32, including interest at 10.5% per annum. Said premises are situated in the City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: Lots 4 and 14, Padgham Addition, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, Page 15, Allegan County Records, c/k/a 207 Eastern Ave, Allegan, MI 49010. The redemption period shall be six months from the date of the sale, unless the premises are determined to be abandoned pursuant to MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be one month, or until the time to provide the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c) expires, whichever is later. The redemption period further may be shortened pursuant to MCL 600.3238(10) if the property is not adequately maintained, or if the purchaser is denied the opportunity to inspect the property. Please be advised that if the mortgaged property is sold at a foreclosure sale by advertisement, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale, or to the mortgage holder, for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Dated: December 18, 2025
Randall T. LeVasseur P41712
LeVasseur Dyer & Associates, PC Attorneys for Mortgagee 3233 Coolidge Hwy Berkley, MI 48072
(248) 236-1765
(12-18)(01-08)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Gerald J Madalinski II, An Unmarried Man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Center, LLC

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None

Date of Mortgage: August 11, 2017

Date of Mortgage Recording: August 18, 2017

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $96,054.18

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing at the Northwest corner of Allegan Village (now City) Lot 892, and running thence Southwest along the Northwesterly line of said Lot 892 continues, to the Northeasterly line of Marshall Street, thence Southeasterly along the Northeasterly line of Marshall Street 75 feet, thence Northeasterly parallel to the Northwesterly line of said Lot 892 to the Southwesterly line of Lot 896 and thence Northwesterly 75 feet to the place of beginning, in said Village (now City) of Allegan, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof.

Excepting and reserving from the above description, 37-1/2 feet heretofore deeded to Grover McAlpine, and as recorded in Liber 173 of Deeds, Page 445, described as follows, to-wit: Commencing at the Northwest corner of Lot 892 and running thence Southwest along the Northwesterly line of Lot 892 continues, to the Northeasterly line of Marshall Street, thence Southeast along the Northeasterly line of Marshall Street, 37.5 feet, thence Northeasterly parallel with the Northwesterly line to the Southwesterly line of Lot 897 and thence Northwesterly to the place of beginning.

Common street address (if any): 535 Marshall St, Allegan, MI 49010-1631

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: December 18, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1580054
(12-18)(01-08)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 25-65973-DE
Estate of Dennis H. Attar a/k/a Dennis Henry Attar, Deceased

Date of Birth: 02/24/1947

NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, Dennis Henry Attar, died on June 7, 2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Patricia Strunck, named personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut St. Allegan, MI 49010 and the named personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date:

Michael J. Becker (P81132)
Orton, Tooman, Hale, McKown & Kiel, P.C.
314 Trowbridge Street, P.O. Box 239
Allegan, MI 49010-0239
(269) 673-2136
Patricia Strunck, Personal Representative
6271 White Horse Lane.
Saugatuck, MI 49453

STATE OF MICHIGAN
48TH CIRCUIT COURT-FAMILY DIVISION
ALLEGAN COUNTY
PUBLICATION OF HEARING
Court Address: 113 Chestnut, Allegan, MI 49010
TO:ALLEGAN COUNTY NEWS
241 HUBBARD STREET
ALLEGAN, MI 49010
IN THE MATTER OF:
KAY'TRAIL LEWIS
CASE NO. 23-67640-NA PETITION NO. I

A TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS HEARING will be conducted by the court on JANUARY 15, 2026 at 9:30 AM (ALL DAY) in 48TH CIRCUIT COURT - FAMILY COURT HEARING ROOM A before REFEREE JUDITH KASSON. You have the right to an attorney and the right to a trial by a judge or jury.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that TURON LEWIS personally appear before the court at the time and place stated above. This hearing may result in the Termination of your parental rights. 113 Chestnut St. Allegan, MI 49010, Family Division.

Dated: 11/24/25

Judge Jolene A. Clearwater (P74848)

EGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS Trust
In the matter of the Delbert L. Tyink and Marlene A. Tyink Joint Trust established April 20, 1994

Marlene Alma Tyink was the surviving grantor of the Trust, and her date of birth was January 20, 1938.

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Marlene Alma Tyink, died November 10, 2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Michael Allen Tyink, Trustee, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Thomas J. Hillegonds P74216
321 Settlers Road
Holland, MI 49423
616-392-1821
Michael Allen Tyink
3173 Hidden Lane Drive
Hamilton, MI 49419
269-377-9917

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the conditions of a certain Mortgage dated March 12, 2021, given by Douglas Glen Allan Jr., an individual, to Laketown Enterprises LLC, as Lender, recorded March 17, 2021 at Document #2021006394, Liber 4591 Page 551, of Allegan County Records, on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due and unpaid as of March 12, 2025, for principal and interest, the sum of $71,047.49 (of which $7,700.00 is delinquent); no suit or proceeding at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the debt, or any part of the debt, secured by said Mortgage; the power of sale in said Mortgage having become operative by reason of such default; and the Lender having exercised and hereby exercising its right of acceleration as a result of the default;

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on January 15, 2026, at 09:00 AM at the front entrance of the Allegan County Courthouse, 113 Chestnut St., Allegan, MI 49010, that being the place for holding the Circuit Court for the County of Allegan, there will be offered for sale and sold to the highest bidder, at public sale, for the purpose of satisfying amounts due and unpaid under said Mortgage, together with legal costs and charges of sale, including attorney fees as provided by law and in said Mortgage, and any and all other lawful charges and expenditures from the date of this notice until said date of sale, the lands in said Mortgage known 1165 58th St, Pullman, MI 49450, and further described in Exhibit A attached hereto.

The redemption period shall be six months from the date of sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: December 16, 2025

CUNNINGHAM DALMAN, P.C.
Attorneys for Laketown Enterprises, LLC
Parkel Hillegers
Rachel L. Hillegonds
321 Settlers Road Holland, MI 49423 (616) 392-1821

EXHIBIT A

Legal Description

The land is situated in the Township of Lee, Allegan County, State of Michigan, as follows:

Parcel 1:

Commencing at the Southwest corner of the North 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 5, Town 1 North, Range 15 West, Lee Township, Allegan County, Michigan; thence North 10 rods to the place of beginning; thence 10 rods North along the center of road; thence East 60 rods; thence South 10 rods; thence West 60 rods to the point of beginning.

Parcel 2:

Beginning on the West line of Section 5, Town 1 North, Range 15 West, Lee Township, Allegan County, Michigan, at a point 1056.00 feet South of the Northwest corner of the Section; thence South on the Section line, 40.66 feet; thence South 81 degrees 41 minutes 22 seconds East 232.87 feet; thence South 07 degrees 53 minutes 09 seconds West 165.26 feet; thence South 89 degrees 10 minutes 12 seconds East 782.23 feet; thence North, 235.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 10 minutes 12 seconds West 990.00 feet to the place of beginning.

EXCEPT beginning at a point found by commencing at the Northwest corner of Section 5, Town 1 North, Range 15 West, Lee Township, Allegan County, Michigan; thence South on the West Section line 1056.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 10 minutes 12 seconds East 250.40 feet to the place of beginning of this description; thence continue South 89 degrees 10 minutes 12 seconds East 412.00 feet; thence South 103.88 feet; thence North 89 degrees 10 minutes 12 seconds West 248.49 feet; thence South 66 degrees 21 minutes 03 seconds West 45.16 feet; thence North 63 degrees 11 minutes 09 seconds West 136.84 feet; thence North 62.64 feet to the place of beginning.

ALSO DESCRIBED AS:

That parcel of land described as S 400' OF N 1456' OF W 990' OF NW 1/4 EX COM AT NW COR TH S 1056' TH E 250.40' TO POB TH CONT E 412' TH S 103.88' TH W 248.49' TH S 66 DEG 21' 03" W 45.16' TH N 63 DEG 11' 09" W 136.84' TH N 62.64' TO POB SEC 5 TIN R15W

Commonly Known As: 1165 58th St, Pullman MI 49450.

Tax Parcel ID: 03-12-005-009-50

12-18 1-8

Notice of Public Hearing

Allegan Township
Planning Commission

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to PA 110 of 2006, as amended, (the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act) the Planning Commission of Allegan Township will hold Public Hearings to deliberate the following topics on Monday, January 12, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., at the Allegan Township Hall located at 3037 118th Avenue, Allegan, Michigan.

1. A petition to rezone the following parcels from AG, Agricultural District to R-2, Low Density Residential District:

2972 Center St (0.48 acres), also known as Permanent Parcel 03-01-034-038-30
2976 Center St (0.48 acres), also known as Permanent Parcel 03-01-034-038-20
2980 Center St (.048 acres), also known as Permanent Parcel 03-01-034-038-10
1263 Bridge Rd (0.72 acres), also known as Permanent Parcel 03-01-034-040-02
V/L Bridge Rd (0.58 acres), also known as Permanent Parcel 03-01-034-040-01

2. Any other business that comes properly before the Planning Commission.

This meeting is intended to provide an opportunity for Township residents and interested citizens to express their opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the requests. Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the Planning Commission Secretary at Allegan Township Hall, 3037 118th Avenue, Allegan, Michigan, 49010 or by calling 269-673-5051. All written comments must be received by no later than 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 8, 2025.

If any resident has a physical disability which may limit his/her participation in this hearing, please notify the Township Hall at least five (5) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

TED HECKMAN, CHAIR
ALLEGAN TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
269-673-5051

CLASSIFIEDS

Baseball Cards

Buying: Baseball cards, pre-1980, 269-625-2255. 12-18 1-8

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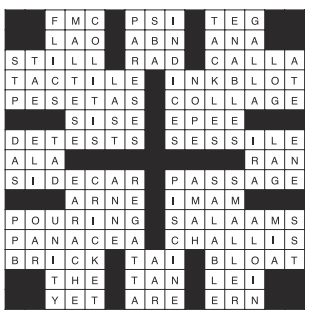

9	4	1	8	2	7	6	5	3
7	3	5	6	4	1	2	9	8
6	2	8	9	5	3	1	7	4
4	7	2	1	3	8	9	6	5
1	9	3	4	6	5	7	8	2
8	5	6	2	7	9	3	4	1
5	6	7	3	1	4	8	2	9
2	1	9	5	8	6	4	3	7
3	8	4	7	9	2	5	1	6

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673-4256

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& DEVELOPMENT CO.
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• Site Preps
800-391-0203
269-673-4791
www.wraysseptic.com
1148 Lincoln Road, Allegan

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Waanders Concrete Co.
Redi-Mix Concrete
Cement Blocks
673-6352
Babylon Road, Allegan

RELIGION SECTION

By G C Stoppel

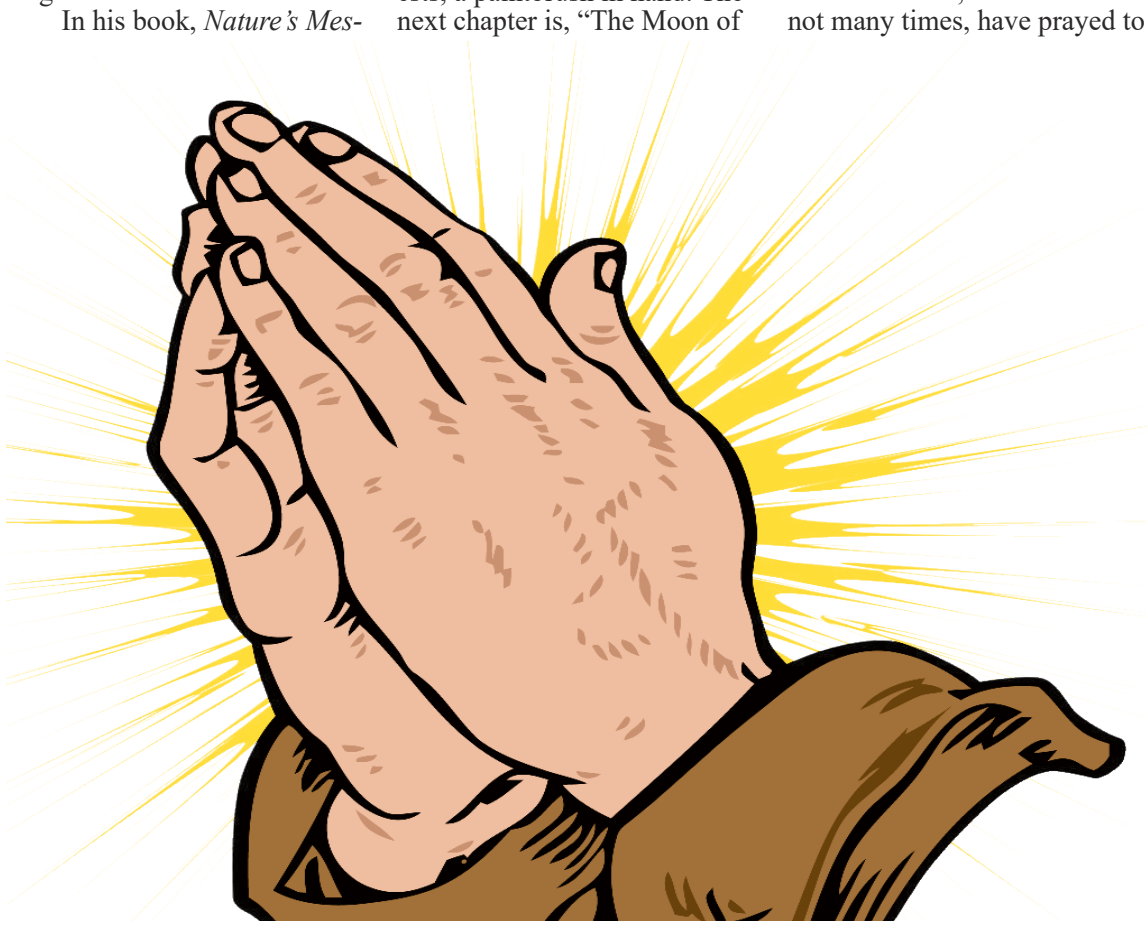
Very early the other morning I received a Face Book message. It was an autumn picture of Green Gables Farm on Prince Edward Island, the setting for Lucy Maud Montgomery's novels *Anne of Green Gables.* Superimposed over the picture are words from her book where Anne says, "I am so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."

I really had not thought of our tenth month that way before, but I understood the message the other day when I went out to clear the driveway just after dawn. We had a heavy snowfall that night. Anne was right on the money with her affirmation, "I am so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." Right now, I miss autumn.

Of course, now we are in December. What brings life to her statement is when we let our imagination run a little wild and we gratefully begin seeing the beauty of every month. It is allowed for us to fuss about cold, snow-filled driveways, and slippery roads. And yes, we miss warmer weather, the sound of birds, and the colors of leaves and flowers. It is cold comfort to remind ourselves about life here. We endlessly repeat, "no hurricanes, no alligators, no earthquakes," hoping to convince ourselves that we have it so good.

In his book, *Nature's Messages,* the late Sam Campbell wrote a short chapter entitled 'When the Red Imps' play. He let his imagination run wild and told of Jack Frost running wild through the northern forests, a paintbrush in hand. The next chapter is, "The Moon of the Barren Boughs." The third is called, "Winter just came." The juxtaposition of these three stories has the power to touch our heart and lift our spirits.

Most of us, at least once if not many times, have prayed to God to show himself. I believe that when we experience and take delight in December, that really is a very real example of God's presence. It is easy when there is a riot of color in October. It is almost as easy to feel God's presence on a quiet night when snow flutters down. In a blizzard, God is there, too, in the wind and pelting snow.



Years ago a young reporter was sent to interview a man who just turned one hundred years. He asked the fellow about his secret to a long life. He smiled and said, "Every morning I get up and go to my window. Regardless of what is outside, I always tell God that the weather is perfect for this day. I think God lets me stick around so I can say thanks for what he has given us. I'm not certain enough people are grateful if the weather isn't to their liking."

What a wonderful attitude. St. Paul reminds us that in all things, we are able to give thanks to God. And so we should.

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd, Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomin gdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 269-370-5834

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
Pastor Eric Burrows-Stone
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Epiphany Lutheran Church (LCMS)
4219 Parklane, Dorr
www.epiphanydorr.org
Sunday service at 9:15 a.m., Bible Study and Sunday School following

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
10:00 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139
Pastor Todd Wagner

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Ganges United Methodist Church
2218 68th St
Fennville MI 49408
Phone 269-543-3581
Lay Minister - Marcia A. Tucker

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

Montage Ministries
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Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
04077 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Pathfinder North Church
(A Global Methodist Church)
532 M 89, Otsego, MI 49078
9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Worship
Rev Ron Hansen
Pathfindernorth.com

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell Church of Christ
911 James St.
Plainwell, Michigan 49080

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Redemption Place Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Deborah Lesher
Church: 269-355-1167

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

UP Uni Pac "Contract Packaging Specialist" 809 Airway Dr. – Highland Industrial Park 269-673-8488

RAPA Rapa Electric, Inc. 1173 Lincoln Rd., Allegan 673-3155/673-3157

Waanders Concrete Co. Ready-Mix Concrete 3169 Babylon Rd., Allegan 673-6352

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& Happy New Year!
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Your Hometown Store

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Village Market, All Natural

Assorted Pork Loin Chops

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FREE!

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Fresh, Grade A

Boneless, Skinless Chicken Breast

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Our Family Red Potatoes

5 lb. bag

$1.99

Dole Gold Pineapple

each

2/$5

Select Varieties

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2/$4

Save at least $3.18 on 2

Our Family Granulated Sugar, 4 lb. bag

$2.99

Save at least 80¢ on 1

Select Varieties

Our Family Salad Dressing

16 oz.

2/$4

Save at least $2.00 on 2

Select Varieties

Del Monte Canned Vegetables

14.5 - 15.25 oz.

5/$5

Select Varieties

Birds Eye Steamfresh Vegetables or Boxed Spinach

10 - 10.8 oz.

BUY ONE, GET ONE OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE

FREE!

Save at least $1.99 on 2

Select Varieties

Our Family Butter

Salted or Unsalted Quarters (16 oz.) or Spreadable (15 oz.)

2/$6

Save at least $2.98 on 2

Select Varieties

Dutch Farms Shredded Cheese

6 - 8 oz.
(excludes swiss, regular parmesan & parmesan romano & asiago blend)

BUY ONE, GET ONE

FREE!

Save at least $3.99 on 2

Assorted Varieties

7-Up Products

2 liter
(plus deposit)

BUY ONE, GET ONE

FREE!

Save at least $2.99 on 2

Select Varieties

Lay's Potato Chips

5 - 8 oz.

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Spend $75 or more in Groceries and Receive 25¢ off each Gallon of Gas! (up to 25 gallons)

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MURK 12-22 873 P1

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Sweet Potatoes

79¢ lb.

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$3.99

Mini Cucumbers
16 oz. pkg. .....

$2.69

Sunset Angel Sweet Tomatoes
pint .....

$2.69

Whole Carrots
3 lb. bag

$2.69

Organic Produce

Select Varieties

Earthbound Farm Organic Salad Mixes
10 oz.

$4.99

floral center

5-Inch Blooming in Blue Christmas
each

$10.99

Blue Christmas Bouquet
each

$19.99

Weekender Bouquet
each

$11.99

Fresh Deli

Boar's Head
Available At Our Allegan Location Only.

Boar's Head Ovengold Turkey

$12.99 lb.

Boar's Head Genoa Salami..... **$12.99 lb.**

Boar's Head Baby Swiss Cheese..... **$11.49 lb.**

Boar's Head Provolone Cheese

$8.99 lb.

Old Tyme Deli Ham
Brown Sugar, Maple or Off-the-Bone

$7.49 lb.

Save at least 50¢ lb.

Old Tyme Deli Provolone Cheese

$5.99 lb.

Save at least $1.00 lb.

Scalloped Potatoes..... **$4.99 lb.**

Save at least $1.00 lb.

Green Bean Casserole..... **$6.99 lb.**

Save at least 20¢ lb.

Cranberry Orange Relish ..... **$6.49 lb.**

Save at least 50¢ lb.

Our Famous
Rotisserie Chicken
Original, BBQ, Lemon Pepper or Fried, each

$8.99

Save at least $1.00

Grab 'N Go
16-Piece Deli Fried Chicken

$19.99

Save at least $3.00

$5.99 Daily Lunch Specials Monday - Friday 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Monday, Dec. 22:
1/2 Panini of the Day
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side

Tuesday, Dec. 23:
Grilled Chicken Sandwich
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side

Wednesday, Dec. 24:
3-Piece Dark Meat Chicken
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side

Thursday, Dec. 25:
Pulled Pork Sandwich
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side
merry christmas

Friday, Dec. 26:
10-Piece Breaded Shrimp
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side

Fresh Bakery

Not Available In All Stores.

Rye Bread
Original, Caraway, Pumpernickel or Swirl
16 oz.

$2.99

Save at least $1.00

Dinner or Potato Rolls
12 ct.

$3.69

Save at least 80¢

Pumpkin, Apple or Dutch Apple Pie, 8-inch

$7.99

Save at least $1.00

Select Varieties
Cookies
30 ct.

$9.99

Save at least $1.00

Select Flavors
Single Layer Christmas Decorated Cakes
8-inch

$10.99

Save at least $1.00

Butterflake Rolls
8 ct.

$3.69

Save at least 30¢

MURK 12-22 161 P2

Seafood Specials

AquaStar Salmon Sides
1.25 lb.

$8.99

Catfish Nuggets

$3.99 lb.

Select Varieties

TransOcean Imitation Crab
8 oz.

2/$5

Canadian Lobster Tail
4 oz.

$8.99

Chadalee Farms Premium Cocktail or Tartar Sauce; or Pure Horseradish
8 - 9 oz.

2/$4

Our Family Cooked Shrimp Ring with Sauce
24 oz.

$16.99

Our Family Extra Jumbo Cooked Shrimp
16 - 20 ct., 16 oz.

$11.99

Peeled & Deveined

Our Family Large Raw Shrimp
31 - 40 ct., 16 oz.

$8.99

USDA Certified Tender

Rib-Eye Steak • Rib-Eye Roast • New York Strip Loin Roast • Beef Tenderloin
New York Strip Steak • T-Bone Steak • Porterhouse Steak

www.processverified.usda.gov

Village Market, All Natural

Bone-In Center Cut Rib Pork Chops or Porterhouse

BUY ONE PKG., GET ONE PKG. OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE

FREE!

Village Market, All Natural, Fresh

Pork Steak
Regular, BBQ, Thin, Thick, Boneless or Stuffed
Family Pack

BUY ONE PKG., GET ONE PKG. OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE

FREE!

Village Market, Fresh

Ground Hamburger
5 lb. or more pkg.

$4.99 lb.

Certified Fresh
Ground Beef from Round
3 lb. or more pkg.
$6.99 lb.

Mix or Match
Village Market, All Natural, Fresh

Pork Strips
Regular or BBQ

BUY ONE PKG., GET ONE PKG. OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE

FREE!

Tender Ridge, Choice Angus

Semi-Boneless Beef New York Strip Steak
Family Pack

Lesser Amt. Pkg. $12.99 lb.

$11.99 lb.

Tender Ridge, Choice Angus

Boneless Beef English Cut Roast
Family Pack

Boneless Beef Ranch Steak Family Pack $6.99 lb.

$5.99 lb.

Mix or Match, Village Market, All Natural

Boneless Pork Sirloin Chops
Thin, Regular, Stuffed, Tenderized or BBQ
Regular or Family Pack Size

BUY ONE PKG., GET ONE PKG. OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE

FREE!

Village Market, All Natural, Fresh

Semi-Boneless Pork Shoulder Butt Roast or Boneless Pork Sirloin Roast

$2.49 lb.

Butcher Shoppe Specialties

Village Market, All Natural

St. Louis Style Spare Ribs

$3.99 lb.

Village Market, Store Made

Bacon Cheddar Meatloaf

$7.99 lb.

Village Market, Store Made, Fresh

Bulk Bacon Pork Sausage

$3.29 lb.

Village Market, Store Made, Fresh

Original Bulk Pork Breakfast Sausage
Family Pack

$2.99 lb.

Select Varieties

Bob Evans Family Size Sides or Entrées
28 - 32 oz.

$4.99

Select Varieties

Smithfield Premium Sliced Bacon (16 oz.) or Mike's Hot Honey Bacon (12 oz.)

$5.99

Select Varieties

Bob Evans Frozen Links or Patties (12 oz.) or Rolls (16 oz.)

2/$9

Merry Christmas

Aunt Millie's Hawaiian Rolls
12 ct.

$3.29

Select Varieties

Jell-O Gelatin or Instant Pudding Mix
.6 - 6 oz.

3/$5

Select Varieties

Kraft Jet-Puffed Marshmallows
10 - 12 oz.

3/$5

Select Varieties

Our Family Olives
5.75 - 6 oz.

2/$4

Select Varieties

McCormick Brown Gravy
Regular, Low Sodium or Gluten Free
.87 - .88 oz.

3/$3

Select Varieties

McCormick Grinders
.77 - 2.5 oz.

2/$6

Select Varieties

Swanson Broth or Stock
32 oz.

2/$4

Select Varieties

Stove Top Stuffing Mix
6 oz.

2/$6

French's Crispy Fried Onions
6 oz.

$3.99

Bruce's Cut Yams
40 oz.

$3.99

Select Varieties

Betty Crocker Brownie Mix
16.3 oz.

2/$4

Select Varieties

Betty Crocker Favorites Cake Mixes
13.25 - 14.25 oz.

2/$3

Select Varieties

Betty Crocker Frosting
12 - 16 oz.

2/$3

Select Varieties

Pam Cooking Spray
5 - 6 oz.

$3.99

Crisco Cooking Oil
Vegetable, Canola or Natural Blends
40 oz.

$3.99

Assorted Varieties

7-Up Products
8 pk., 12 oz. btls. (plus deposit)

2/$10

Save at least $5.38 on 2

Select Varieties

Snapple Drinks
64 oz.

2/$4

Coors: / Miller:
Banquet or Light or
Genuine Draft or Lite
20 pk. btls. (plus deposit)

$18.99

Save at least $4.00 on 1

Hellmann's Mayo
Real or Light
Jar (30 oz.) or Squeeze (20 oz.)

$5.99

Save at least $2.00 on 1

Assorted Varieties

Coca-Cola Products
8 pk., 12 oz. btls. (plus deposit)

$6.69

Save at least $1.00 on 1

Assorted Varieties

Coca-Cola Products
10 pk., 7.5 oz. sleek mini cans (plus deposit)

$7.99

Select Varieties

Our Family Potato Chips
7.75 oz.

BUY ONE, GET ONE

FREE!

Save at least $3.99 on 2

Select Varieties

Doritos Tortilla Chips
9 - 10.75 oz.

2/$7

Save at least $5.58 on 2

Assorted Varieties

Pepsi Products
(12 pk., 12 oz. cans) (plus deposit) or **Gatorade Sports Drinks** (8 pk., 20 oz. btls.)

$6.99

Save at least $2.00 on 1

Assorted Varieties

Pepsi Products
(2 liter) (plus deposit) or **Brisk** or **Dole** (2 liter)

$1.99

Select Varieties

Boulder Canyon Kettle Chips
5.25 - 6.5 oz.

BUY ONE, GET ONE

FREE!

Select Varieties

Utz Barrels
19 - 26 oz.

$6.99

Save at least $4.79 on 2

Select Varieties
Nestlé Toll House Morsels
9 - 12 oz.
2/$9

Select Varieties
Our Family Almonds or Walnuts
6 - 8 oz.
$3.99

Our Family Chopped or Halved Pecans
6 - 8 oz.
$4.99

Our Family Graham Cracker Pie Crust
6 oz.
2/$4

Select Varieties
Carnation Evaporated Milk
12 oz.
2/$3

Our Family Light or Dark Brown or Powdered Sugar
2 lb.
2/$5

Select Varieties
Pillsbury Flour
5 lb.
$2.99

Our Family Lasagna Noodles
Regular or Oven Ready
12 - 16 oz.
2/$4

Select Varieties
Our Family Croutons
5 oz.
3/$4

Select Varieties
Pillsbury Cake Mix
(15.25 oz.) or
Frosting
(12 - 16 oz.)
2/$3

Assorted Varieties
Coca-Cola Products
(2 liter) (plus deposit)
or **Minute Maid** (2 liter)
2/$6

Select Varieties
Lipton Iced Tea
(12 pk., 16.9 oz. btls.) or
Pure Leaf (6 pk., 16.9 oz. btls.)
$5.99

Select Varieties
Monster Energy Drinks
12 pk., 16 oz. cans
(plus deposit)
$21.99

Select Varieties
Welch's Sparkling Grape Juice
25.4 oz.
(plus deposit)
2/$7

Select Varieties
Chateau Grand Traverse Select Wine
750 ml
$9.49

Select Varieties
Aunt Millie's Bakehouse Bread (20 oz.) or Bakehouse Buns (14 - 20 oz.)
2/$6

Save at least $1.98 on 2

Select Varieties
Jif Peanut Butter
33.5 - 40 oz.
$5.99

Save at least 50¢ on 1

Welch's Grape Jelly or Jam
30 oz. jar
$2.99

Our Family Round Top Wheat Bread
20 oz.
2/$4

Save at least 58¢ on 2

Select Varieties
Our Family Mustard
Dijon, Honey, Horseradish or Sweet & Spicy
12 oz.
2/$4

Select Varieties
Our Family Cranberry Juice, 64 oz.
(excludes 100%)
2/$5

Save at least $2.38 on 2

Select Varieties
Del Monte Canned Fruit
14.5 - 15.25 oz.
2/$4

Save at least $1.78 on 2

Select Varieties
Nature Valley Muffin or Granola Bars or Softbaked Oatmeal Bars or Biscuits
6.2 - 8.94 oz.
2/$6

Save at least $3.98 on 2

Assorted Varieties
Faygo Products
8 pk., 12 oz. cans
(plus deposit)
2/$7

Save at least 98¢ on 2

Select Varieties
Mott's Apple Juice
64 oz.
2/$7

Save at least $2.98 on 2

Buy 5, Save $5 Sale

Buy Any Five (5) Participating Items In One Transaction and Save $5.00

Mix or Match Any of These Participating Items & Save $1.00 Off Each. (Multiples of 5) Will Scan at Register

Select Varieties

Kraft Shredded Cheese

7 - 8 oz.

$3.49 - $1.00

$2.49 When You Buy 5.

Select Varieties

Kemps Frozen Yogurt or Ice Cream

48 oz.

$3.99 - $1.00

$2.99 When You Buy 5.

Select Varieties

Maxwell House Ground Coffee

22 - 33.1 oz.

$15.99 - $1.00

$14.99 When You Buy 5.

Philadelphia Cream Cheese

Original or 1/3 Less Fat

8 oz. box

$2.99 - $1.00

$1.99 When You Buy 5.

Select Varieties

Maxwell House Coffee Pods

10 - 12 ct.

$7.99 - $1.00

$6.99 When You Buy 5.

Select Varieties

Starbucks K-Cups

10 ct.

$7.99 - $1.00

$6.99 When You Buy 5.

Select Varieties

Starbucks Ground or Whole Bean Coffee

11 - 12 oz.

$7.99 - $1.00

$6.99 When You Buy 5.

Select Varieties

Nabisco Cookies

Chips Ahoy!, Oreo or Nutter Butter or **Snack Crackers**

11.78 - 20.5 oz.

$4.99 - $1.00

$3.99 When You Buy 5.

Select Varieties

Cheez-It Family Size Crackers

12 - 21 oz.

$4.99 - $1.00

$3.99 When You Buy 5.

Select Varieties

General Mills Cereal

10.6 - 14 oz.

$3.49 - $1.00

$2.49 When You Buy 5.

Select Varieties

Kraft Salad Dressing

14 - 16 oz.

$3.49 - $1.00

$2.49 When You Buy 5.

Select Varieties

Kool-Aid Jammers

10 ct.

$3.69 - $1.00

$2.69 When You Buy 5.

Select Varieties

Kraft Chunk Cheese

7 - 8 oz.

$3.49 - $1.00

$2.49 When You Buy 5.

Select Varieties

Kraft Singles

10.7 - 12 oz.

$3.99 - $1.00

$2.99 When You Buy 5.

Select Varieties

Oscar Mayer Deli Fresh Lunch Meat

15 - 16 oz.

$9.99 - $1.00

$8.99 When You Buy 5.

Select Varieties

Gevalia Coffee Pods

10 - 12 ct.

$7.99 - $1.00

$6.99 When You Buy 5.

Select Varieties

Philadelphia Cream Cheese

7.5 - 8 oz. tub

$3.99 - $1.00

$2.99 When You Buy 5.

Select Varieties

Ore-Ida Potatoes

22 - 32 oz.

$4.99 - $1.00

$3.99 When You Buy 5.

Bagel Bites Cheese & Pepperoni

9 ct.

$2.99 - $1.00

$1.99 When You Buy 5.

Select Varieties

TGI Fridays Appetizers

8 - 11 oz.

$4.69 - $1.00

$3.69 When You Buy 5.

dairy & frozen savings

Select Varieties

Hudsonville Ice Cream

48 oz.

$3.99

Save at least $2.00 on 1

Select Varieties

Pillsbury Rolls or Biscuits

8 - 16.3 oz.

2/$5

Save at least $1.48 on 2

Select Varieties

Simply Juice

46 - 52 oz.

$3.99

Save at least 90¢ on 1

Select Varieties

Sara Lee, Dolly Parton's or Marie Callender's Frozen Desserts

17 - 42 oz.

$5.99

Save at least $1.80 on 1

Daisy Sour Cream

Regular or Light

16 oz.

2/$5

Save at least 98¢ on 2

Select Varieties

Dean's Dips

12 - 16 oz.

2/$4

Save at least $2.58 on 2

Select Varieties

DiGiorno Pizza

Hand Tossed (17.3 - 18.9 oz.), 12-Inch Original Rising (24.6 - 29.3 oz.) or Thin (20.6 - 21.9 oz.)

2/$11

Save at least $4.98 on 2

Select Varieties

Pillsbury Cookie Dough

14 - 30 oz. ..... **2/$7**

Pillsbury Refrigerated All Ready Pie Crusts

14.1 oz. ..... **2/$6**

White Castle Hamburgers or Cheeseburgers

16 ct. **$14.99**

Country Crock Spread

Original, Calcium or Light

45 oz. tub **$4.99**

Dean's Country Fresh Egg Nog

64 oz. **$5.99**

Select Varieties

Reddi Wip Whipped Topping

13 oz. **$4.99**

Select Varieties

Kemps Sherbet

54 oz. **$3.99**

Our Family Milk

1% Lowfat or Fat Free gallon

2/$7

Select Varieties

Cool Whip Whipped Topping

8 oz.

2/$4

Select Varieties

Tyson Chicken

23 - 29 oz.

$5.99

Select Varieties

TruMoo Flavored Milk

64 oz.

$2.99

Our Family Cream Cheese

2 pk., 16 oz. bar

$3.99

New York Texas Garlic Toast (11.25 oz.) or Garlic Breadsticks (10.5 oz.)

2/$6

NON-FOOD SAVINGS

Select Varieties
Tide Liquid Laundry Detergent
50 - 63 oz.
$11.99

Select Varieties
Downy Scent Beads
5 - 5.9 oz.
$3.99

Select Varieties
Dawn Dish Soap
Platinum, Powerwash, EZ Squeeze or Spray
16 - 24.3 oz.
$4.99

Cottonelle Bath Tissue
Ultra Comfort or Ultra Clean
24 pk. mega roll
$19.99

Our Family Ultra Big Paper Towels
6 ct.
$8.99

Our Family Bath Tissue
Ultra Soft or Ultra Strong
24 ct. mega roll
$17.99

Our Family Assorted Clear Cutlery
96 ct.
$5.99

Our Family Coated 9-Inch Paper Plates
150 ct.
$6.99

Reynold's Foil Wrap
Original (75 sq. ft.), Heavy Duty (50 sq. ft.) or Non-Stick (50 sq. ft.)
$4.99

Select Varieties
Our Family Storage or Freezer Bags
24 - 50 ct.
2/$7

Getting Prepared for Christmas 2025

Select Varieties
Paper Craft Wrapping Paper (20 sq. ft.) or **Regent Wire Christmas Ribbon** (each)
$1.99

Select Varieties
Paper Craft Gift Tags or Bottle Bag
each
2/$3

Jay Bags Thermal Wine Bag
each
2/$4

Select Varieties
Berwick Bows
Traditional or Bright
16 - 30 ct.
$4.99

Select Varieties
Paper Craft Large Gift Bag
each
$1.69

Paper Craft Extra Large Traditional Gift Bag
each
$3.99

Anico 6-Inch Christmas Plush
each
$9.99

health & beauty and general merchandise

Select Varieties
Sharpie Fine Point Permanent Marker, each
2/$3

Select Varieties
Aviator Playing Cards (each) or **Bicycle Dice** (5 ct.)
$2.99

Select Varieties
Pilot Pens
2 pk.
$3.69

Select Varieties
Wet Brush Original Detangler Oval Brush
each
$6.99

Select Varieties
TopCare Toothbrushes
Multifit, Smart Grip, Gem Grip or Clean
each
2/$3

Select Varieties
Kolorae Tough Totes
each
$4.99

Select Varieties
Gift Pop Holiday Popcorn Tins
21 oz.
$8.99

Select Varieties
TopCare Ibuprofen
Orange or Brown
50 ct.
$3.99

TopCare All Night Pain Relief
20 ct.
$3.99

TopCare All Day Pain Relief
50 ct. tablets
$5.99

Select Varieties
TopCare Cough or Cold & Flu Syrup
(8 - 12 oz.), **Cold & Flu** (24 ct. softgels), **Cold Relief Effervescent** (20 ct. tablets) or **Medicated Chest Rub** (3.63 oz.)
$5.99

Select Varieties
TopCare Cotton Swabs
(375 - 500 ct.) or **Premium Cotton Rounds** (80 ct.)
2/$6

Select Varieties
White Mountain Puzzles
each
$16.99

Energizer Max Batteries
AA or AAA (4 ct.), C or D (2 ct.) or 9V (1 ct.)
$6.99

Prilosec OTC Omeprazole
(DR 20 mg.) or Acid Reducer Wildberry (14 ct.) or Acid Reducer 14 ct. tablets
$12.99

Select Varieties
Pepto Bismol Liquid
(8 - 24 oz.) or **Chews** (10 - 30 ct.)
$1.00 OFF Regular Retail

Select Varieties
Listerine Total Care Mouthwash
1 liter
$7.99

Select Varieties
Tuscany Candles
14 - 18 oz.
$12.99

Select Varieties
Ricola Cough Drops
19 - 24 ct.
$2.99

Select Varieties
Vicks DayQuil or NyQuil Cold & Flu (24 ct. caplets), **DayQuil** or **NyQuil Hot Remedy** (8 ct.), **Kids Liquid Cold** or **Cough & Fever** (8 oz.), **Cold & Flu Syrup** (12 oz.) or **V Sinex Saline Rinse Refill** (60 ct.),
$12.99

Select Varieties
Listerine Mouthwash
1 liter
$7.99

We reserve the right to limit quantities & are not responsible for pictorial or typographical errors. Items with a purchase requirement exclude alcohol, tobacco, lottery, stamps, gift cards, Western Union & money orders.

Visit our website for Weekly Specials, Great Recipe Ideas and Up-Coming Events!
Come check it out at:
www.villagemarketfoodcenters.com

Store Hours:

- Allegan: Open 6AM - 12AM 7 Days!
- Colon, Decatur & Gobles: Open 7AM - 9PM 7 Days!

We double manufacturer coupons up to and including 50¢ Tuesdays & Sundays! (see store for details)

VILLAGE MARKET FOOD CENTERS

In-Ad Coupon PLU 37

5% Senior Discount
(55 & Older)
WEDNESDAY ONLY
(Excluding Alcohol, Tobacco Products, lottery, stamps, gift cards, Western Union and money orders)
PLEASE PRESENT COUPON BEFORE STARTING PURCHASE.
COUPON VALID WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025 ONLY!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

• Celebrate with a Feast of Savings! •

Prices Valid December 22 - December 28, 2025

Order your Ham Dinner from Us!

To assure your meal is ready, please order your Christmas Dinner 48 Hours in Advance.
***$10.00 deposit Required**

Includes Scalloped Potatoes (4 lb.),
Green Bean Casserole & Sweet Potatoes (2 lb.).
Smithfield Spiral Ham Avg. Size is 8 - 9 lb. See Stores for Details

Cold
Serves 10 - 12
$69.99

Hot
Serves 10 - 12
$74.99
plus tax

Deli

Our Famous
Deli Fried Chicken
50-piece
$59.99

Our Famous
Deli Fried Dark Meat Chicken
70-piece
$69.99

Assorted Varieties
Deli Made Cheese Ball
$6.49 lb.
Save at least 50¢ lb.

Save at least $2.00

Select Varieties
Garden Fresh Salsa
16 oz.
$3.99
Save at least 80¢

King's Hawaiian Original Hawaiian Rolls
12 ct.
$4.99
Save at least $1.00

Deep Fried Chicken Wing Zings
$7.49 lb.
Save at least $1.00 lb.

Columbus Charcuterie Tray
12.5 oz.
$16.99
Save at least $3.00

Produce

Fresh
Lemons
each
4/$3

Fresh & Finest Vegetable Platter
40 oz.
$13.99

Select Varieties
Marzetti Vegetable Dip
12 oz.
2/$7

HELP FIGHT HUNGER!

DONATE-A-BAG

Join Village Markets in helping our neighbors restock their shelves!

1.) Select a bag in the store in the amount that you wish to donate ($10, $15 or $20).
2.) Pay for the bag when you check out.
3.) Drop the bag off in the bin at the front of the store or you may take it directly to a person in need.
4.) We will coordinate the delivery of the donated food in the store bins to neighbors in need.

Merry Christmas

Celebrate with a Feast of Savings!

Prices Valid December 22 - December 28, 2025

Dairy

Select Varieties
Dutch Farms Cracker Cut Cheese
7 oz.
2/$6

Bakery

Fresh Baked
Small Cartwheel Rolls, 12 ct.
$5.99
Save at least $1.00

Bakery Fresh
Iced Cupcakes
Decorated for the Holiday, 24 ct.
$29.99
Save at least $3.00

Fresh Baked
Dinner Rolls
12 ct.
$3.49
Save at least $1.00

Select Varieties
Dutch Apron Cake Rolls
15.5 - 19.5 oz.
$8.99
Save at least $1.00

Village Market, Store Made
Fruit Cake
14 oz.
$6.99
Save at least $1.00

Meat

Smithfield Anytime Favorites Sliced Ham
1.5 lb.
$7.99

Select Varieties
Armour Meatballs
20 - 25 oz.
$5.99

Select Varieties
Curly's Pulled Meat
12 - 16 oz.
$5.49

Curly's Baby Back Ribs
24 oz.
$13.99

Eckrich Family Pack Cocktail Smokies
28 oz.
$6.99

Select Varieties
Eckrich Family Pack Smoked or Polish Sausage
30 - 42 oz.
$9.99

Armour Summer Sausage
20 oz.
$6.99

Oscar Mayer Stack Pack Ham
16 oz.
$5.99

PLU502

Good 12/22/25 thru 1/4/26
Only at Village Market Food Centers

VILLAGE MARKET FOOD CENTERS

SAVE $5.00 OFF
Any Large Deli Made Party Tray

one coupon per family, per transaction

MURK 12-22 161 G1B